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ALL IN PICTURES

9D.

CRIME RIDES THE SPACEWAYS

SUPER DETECTIVE LIBRARY.—No. 37.—CRIME RIDES THE SPACEWAYS.

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Edgar Hayn was the sort of man whom the Saint detested—a drug smuggler who battened on weak but innocent people, caught them in his toils and then used them to help him carry out his many unsavoury deals. It was therefore obvious that the Saint had to deal with Hayn. From the moment the Saint decided to give Hayn his personal attention it became a battle of wits, for Hayn had more than his fair share of cunning. In fact, the Saint experienced a number of hair-raising escapes from death before he was able to deal out his own particular brand of justice. Don't miss this latest adventure of that modern buccaneer, the Saint.

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SUPER DETECTIVE LIBRARY

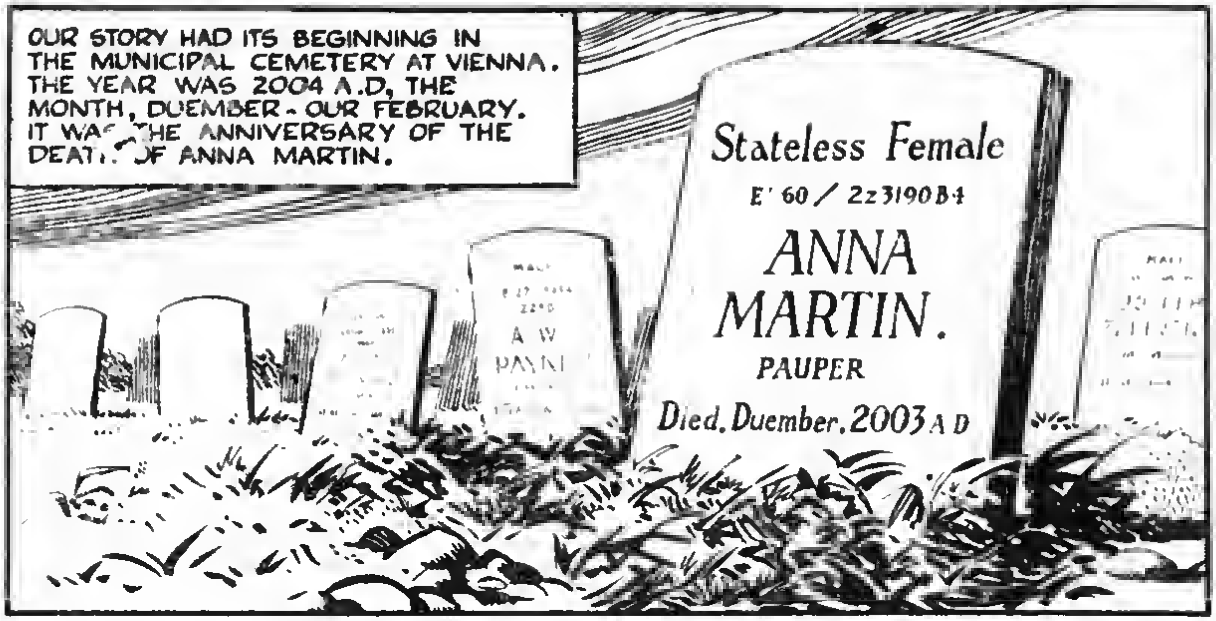
TWO ISSUES EVERY MONTH **PRICE 9D. EACH**

CRIME RIDES THE SPACE WAYS

EIGHT PASSENGERS WERE TOGETHER IN A SPACESHIP, AND SEVEN OF THEM WERE MARKED FOR DOOM, BECAUSE--THE EIGHTH TRAVELLER WAS A KILLER!

WHO WAS THIS MYSTERIOUS BLACK GLOVED MENACE?

THIS WAS THE RIDDLE TO WHICH RICK RANDOM, DETECTIVE OF THE SPACE WAYS, HAD TO FIND THE ANSWER. THIS WAS THE SINISTER MYSTERY WHICH CONFRONTED HIM AS THE SPACECRAFT HURTLED ON ITS FATEFUL VOYAGE TO VENUS.



A PRIVATE AEROCAR WAS DESCENDING TO THE CEMETERY LANDING STAGE. BESIDES THE CHAUFFEUR IT CONTAINED FRANKS, A PRIVATE DETECTIVE OF DUBIOUS REPUTATION, AND - - ONE OTHER PASSENGER!-

THERE'S THE CEMETERY DOWN BELOW NOW - THE END OF OUR JOURNEY.

NOT THE END! YOUR JOB IS ONLY BEGINNING, FRANKS.

THE TWO ALIGHTED, AND FRANKS SPOKE.
BUT I HAVE DONE WHAT YOU ENGAGED ME TO DO. I HAVE FOUND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO HER.

FRANKS' COMPANION PAUSED AT ANNA'S GRAVESTONE, THEN SPOKE.
YOU HAVE BROUGHT ME TO A GRAVE, FRANKS. I TOLD YOU TO FIND A LIVING WOMAN ~ THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THE WORLD. CAN THIS BE THE END OF THE STORY? ANNA ~ DEAD!
2003 AD

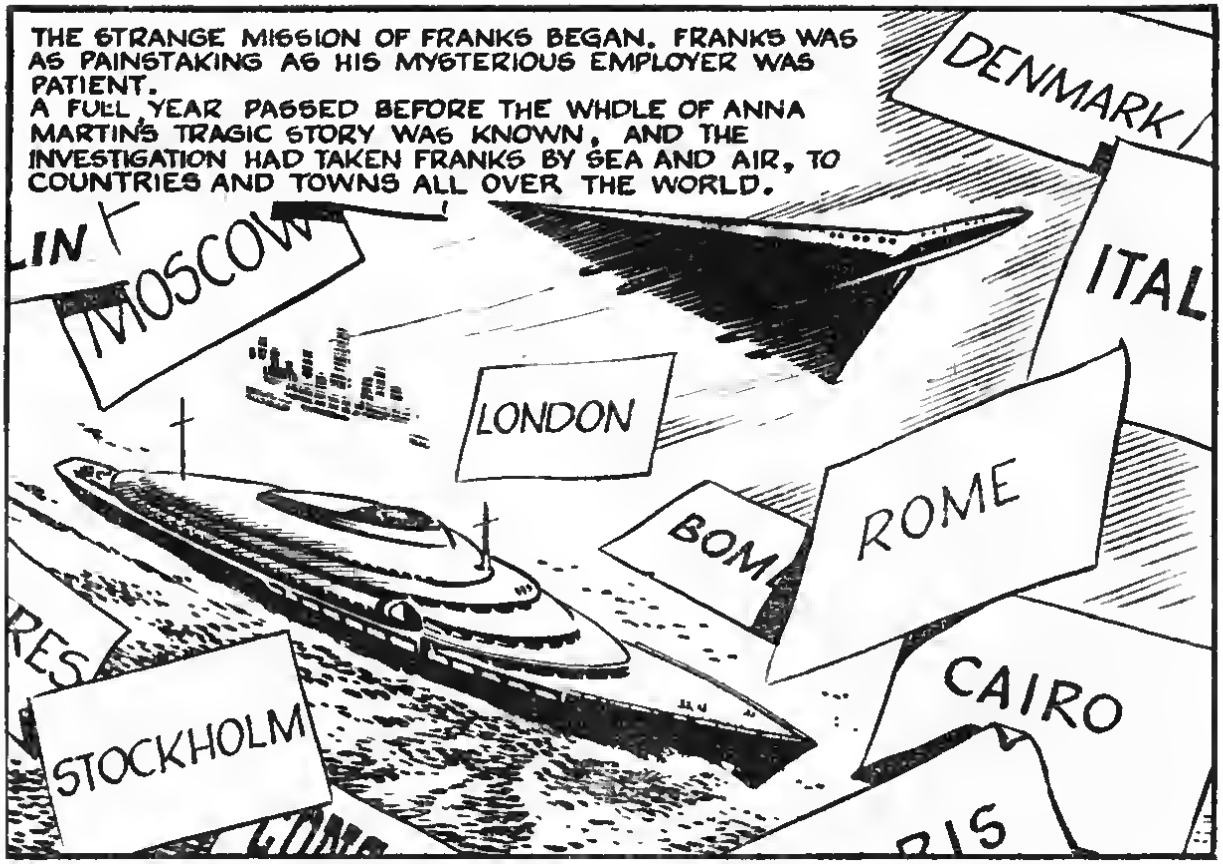
WAS THAT MY FAULT? DON'T BLAME ME! BLAME FRAU HAUSSEN, IF YOU LIKE.

SHE'S THE BOARDING-HOUSE KEEPER IN THIS CITY WHO TURNED ANNA OUT ~ ILL, MONEYLESS, HUNGRY ~ DURING THE TERRIBLE WINTER OF '03!
2003 AD

KEEP YOUR FILTHY HANDS FROM HER GRAVE AND DO NOT DARE TO SPEAK OF HER WITH SUCH FAMILIARITY. I WILL JUDGE WHO IS TO BLAME.
Stateless Female

THE TWO PASSENGERS RETURNED TO THE WAITING AEROCAR.
BETWEEN THE DAY WHEN SHE RAN AWAY WITH THAT SCOUNDREL, AND THE DAY SHE DIED, THERE MAY BE MANY OTHERS WHO CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS HER TRAGEDY.

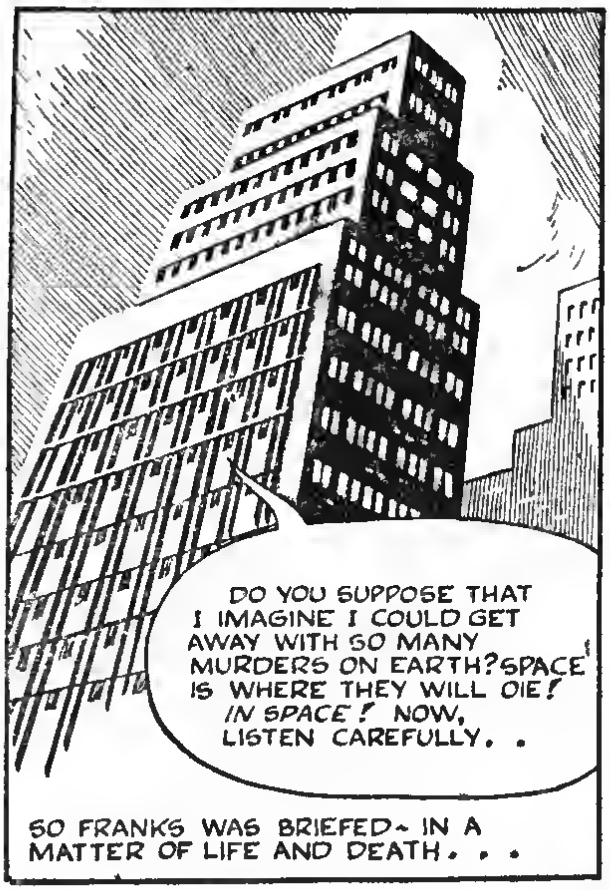
THIS IS YOUR NEXT JOB, FRANKS. BRING ME THE STORY OF THOSE TWO LOST YEARS OF ANNA'S LIFE. BRING ME THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO DESTROYED HER -AND I WILL DESTROY THEM!

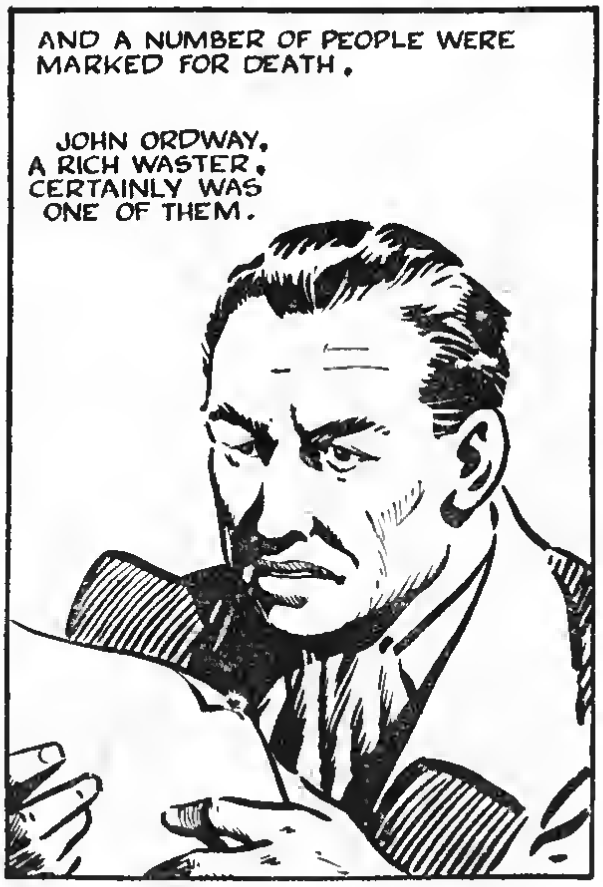

THE STRANGE MISSION OF FRANKS BEGAN. FRANKS WAS AS PAINSTAKING AS HIS MYSTERIOUS EMPLOYER WAS PATIENT.
A FULL YEAR PASSED BEFORE THE WHOLE OF ANNA MARTIN'S TRAGIC STORY WAS KNOWN, AND THE INVESTIGATION HAD TAKEN FRANKS BY SEA AND AIR, TO COUNTRIES AND TOWNS ALL OVER THE WORLD.
DENMARK
MOSCOW
ITAL
LONDON
ROME
BOM
CAIRO
STOCKHOLM

AT LAST FRANKS SUBMITTED HIS REPORT. TO HIS OFFICE CAME A VISITOR WHO WORE BLACK GLOVES.
I SPENT LAST NIGHT READING YOUR REPORT. YOU UNDERLINED CERTAIN NAMES. I AGREE.

ALL THESE PEOPLE SHARE GUILT IN THE MATTER. I HAVE DECIDED - ALL MUST DIE!

FRANKS WAS NOT SHOCKED. FRANKS WAS, HOWEVER, SCARED.
MURDER! I'M NOT GETTING MIXED UP IN THAT!
- NEWS EDITIONS -
SPACE SHIP DISASTER
SABOTAGE SUSPECTED
YOU ARE A FOOL, AND YOU TAKE ME FOR ONE TOO, FRANKS. YOUR PART WILL BE THAT OF "BEATER" - TO DRIVE MY VICTIMS INTO THE TRAP I PLAN FOR THEM.


DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT I IMAGINE I COULD GET AWAY WITH SO MANY MURDERS ON EARTH? SPACE IS WHERE THEY WILL DIE! IN SPACE! NOW, LISTEN CAREFULLY. .
SO FRANKS WAS BRIEFED - IN A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH. . .


AND A NUMBER OF PEOPLE WERE MARKED FOR DEATH.
JOHN ORDWAY, A RICH WASTER, CERTAINLY WAS ONE OF THEM.

THERE WERE A LOT OF REASONS WHY JOHN ORDWAY MIGHT DESERVE DEATH – BUT THERE WERE OTHERS ON THE LIST WHICH FRANKS COMPILED WHOSE INCLUSION WAS BAFFLING.
WHY SHOULD THE LOVELY ISABELLA MANCINI HAVE BEEN ONE OF THEM? ISABELLA WAS A NURSE, A GOOD AND DEVOTED NURSE. .
THEN THERE WAS CARL FLIEDMAN, AN ACROBAT. .
AND THERE WAS JULIE JASON, ACTRESS, A RISING STAR. WAS THE CAREER OF JULIE JASON TO END SO SOON?
. . . OTTO MAYER, MULTI-MILLIONAIRE, WAS ON THE LIST.
MISS CASSON - SEND A COSMACODE TO HARRIS IN VENUSBERG. TELL HIM IT'S ALL FIXED. I'LL BE GOING TO VENUS MYSELF.

. . THE NEXT OF THOSE FOR WHOM STRANGE ADVENTURE LAY AHEAD, WAS KURT LISTGAARD, A SMALL-TIME CROOK.

KURT'S NAME WAS FOLLOWED BY THAT OF INGA HAUSSEN - A RESPECTABLE VIENNA HAUSFRAU. . .
OH, MR FRANKS - HOW KIND YOU HAVE BEEN TO ARRANGE EVERYTHING.

A-H-INC
AND LAST ON THE LIST WERE COLONEL AND MRS McCLOUD, WHO, ON THE DAY WHEN THE CAREFUL PLANNING CAME TO FRUITION, LED THE WAY TOWARDS THE SPACESHIP OF DEATH!

DEEP IN THE AUSTRALIAN INTERIOR, REMOTE FROM CITIES, STOOD THE INTERPLANETARY SPACE STATION! HERE THE INTENDED VICTIMS WENT ABOARD THE CHARTER SPACE SHIP "STELLAR: ON THE "STELLAR'S" COSMIC ROUTING PLAN THE DESTINATION WAS ~ ~ VENUS.
STATION CONTROLLER SPEAKING. PASSENGERS FOR THE CHARTER SPACER "STELLAR" NOW ENPLANING. PLEASE CONTACT CAPTAIN VANE, ASKING HIM TO REPORT TO THIS OFFICE FOR HIS LUNAR BEACON ROUTING.
OWING TO THE DIFFERENT RATES OF MOVEMENT ROUND THE SUN, THE TIMES WHEN TRAFFIC BETWEEN EARTH AND VENUS WAS POSSIBLE TO THE EARLY SPACEMEN OCCURRED ONLY ONCE EVERY YEAR AND A HALF. THAT PHASE WAS ALMOST OVER. THE LAST SPACER ON THE SCHEDULED RUN HAD ALREADY LEFT.

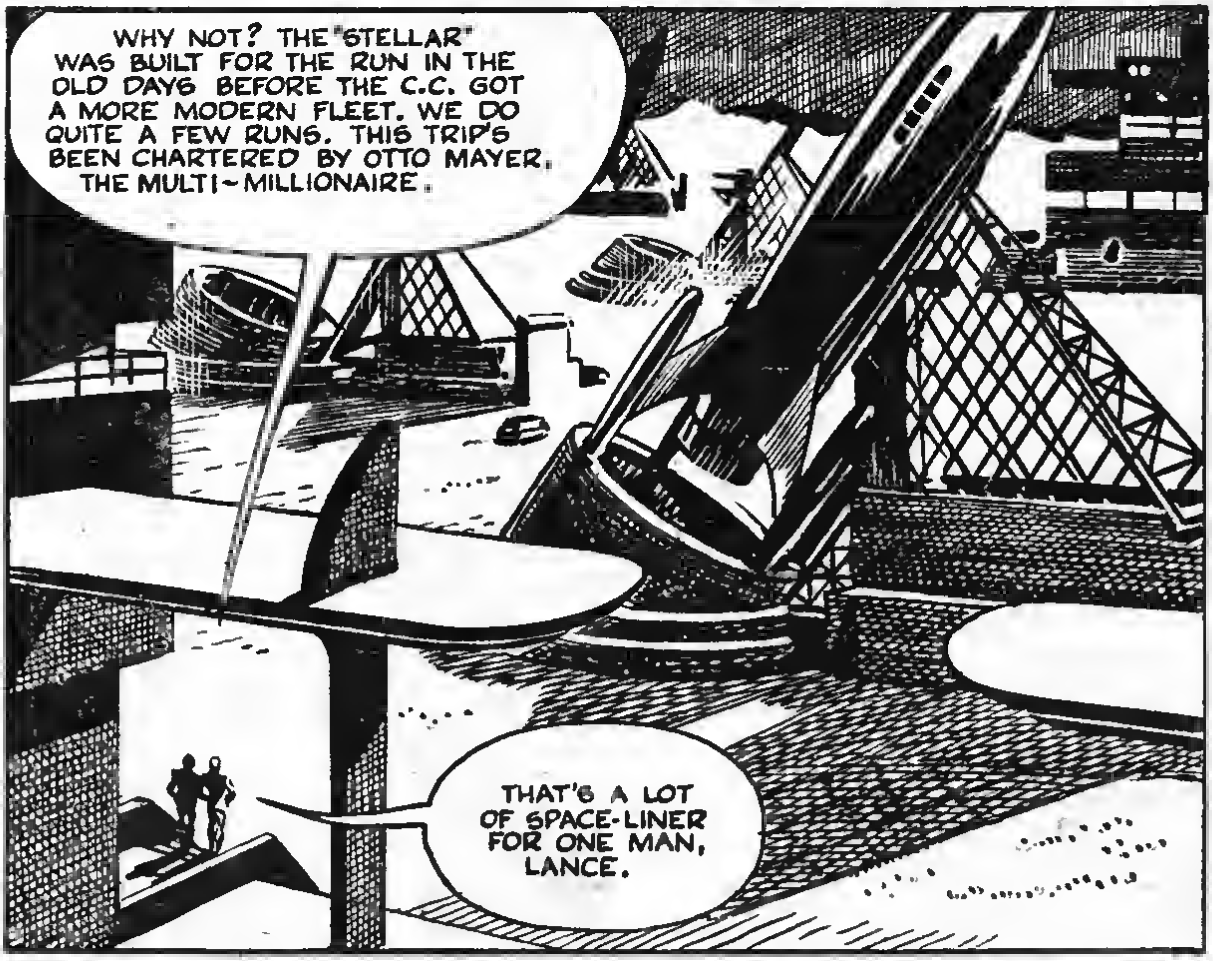
WILL CAPTAIN LANCE VANE PLEASE REPORT TO STATION CONTROL IMMEDIATELY.
THERE'S MY CALL, CHAPS! SPACEMAN'S LUCK!
LANCE VANE.. COULD THAT BE..
ELBOURNE
LIGHT
SENGERS
ALL

LANCE! IT REALLY IS YOU!
RICK RANDOM! SAY, THIS IS GREAT!

WE MUST GET TOGETHER SOMETIME, RICK. RIGHT NOW I'M DUE TO BLAST OFF FOR VENUS.
I THOUGHT THE LAST VENUS LINER OF THE PRESENT ORBIT WENT LAST WEEK!

NEARBY, THE "STELLAR" PURSER CHATTED TO A MEMBER OF THE CREW . .
WHO IS THAT WITH LANCE?
RANDOM. HE'S ONE OF THE INTERPLANETARY BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION BOYS. HE AND LANCE WERE BUDDIES IN THE COSMIC WAR.

MEANWHILE. .
NO, RICK, I'M NOT WITH COSMIC COMMUNICATIONS. I'M SKIPPER OF A PRIVATE CHARTER "SPACER"- SHE'S OUT AT NO. 6 PIT, THE "STELLAR"!
THAT OLD-FASHIONED CRATE! DON'T TELL ME YOU FLY SPACERS LIKE THAT AS FAR AS VENUS, LANCE!


WHY NOT? THE "STELLAR" WAS BUILT FOR THE RUN IN THE OLD DAYS BEFORE THE C.C. GOT A MORE MODERN FLEET. WE DO QUITE A FEW RUNS. THIS TRIP'S BEEN CHARTERED BY OTTO MAYER, THE MULTI-MILLIONAIRE.
THAT'S A LOT OF SPACE-LINER FOR ONE MAN, LANCE.

OH, MAYER HAD TO MAKE IT A BUSINESS TRIP- PUT THE WHOLE THING INTO THE HANDS OF AN AGENT, WHO MADE UP A PASSENGER LIST. LOOK, I MUST REPORT TO CONTROL. WILL YOU BE HERE LONG?
NO. I'M ONLY WAITING FOR A MELBOURNE HELIBUS. I JUST CAME OUT HERE TO SEE SOMEONE OFF ON THE SANATORIUM SATELLITE LINER.

RICK RANDOM AND LANCE VANE PARTED COMPANY, NEVER SUSPECTING THE DRAMA THAT WAS SO SOON TO LINK THEIR PATHS ON A NIGHTMARE JOURNEY THROUGH SPACE.
RECEPTION

MEANWHILE, ABOARD THE "STELLAR," THE EIGHT PASSENGERS WERE SETTLING IN, AND GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER, MUCH IN THE MANNER OF MID-20TH CENTURY OCEAN LINER PASSENGERS. FRAU HAUSSEN INTRODUCED HERSELF. .
JA, I AM FROM VIENNA. I HAVE A NEPHEW WHO EMIGRATED TO VENUS. HE DIED THERE-WEALTHY. I GO ABOUT THE INHERITANCE.
DOES ANYBODY KNOW WHICH OF US CHARTERED THE "STELLAR"?

WHO CHARTERED THE "STELLAR"? DON'T ASK ME. I'M JULIE JASON, AN ACTRESS, AND MY AGENT FIXED THE WHOLE THING FOR ME.

I'M GOING OUT TO VENUS FOR LOCATION SHOTS FOR A NEW FILM. ALL RATHER EXCITING AND MYSTERIOUS. THEY'RE A NEW COMPANY, BUT--WELL, THEY PAID ME IN ADVANCE, SO WHY WORRY?

JA - A GREAT SURPRISE, I CAN TELL YOU, TO BE GOING TO VENUS AT MY TIME OF LIFE. BUT THE SOLICITOR - SUCH A CHARMING MAN, MR FRANKS--ARRANGED EVERYTHING.

SO! NONE OF YOU, IT SEEMS, KNOWS THE NAME OF THE MAN WHO CHARTERED THIS LINER. BUT I CAN TELL YOU, HE IS A MULTI - MILLIONAIRE! THINK OF THAT! OTTO MAYER!

TO ONE PASSENGER, JOHN ORDWAY, THE NAME OF MAYER WAS FAMILIAR.
OTTO MAYER! SO THAT OLD RASCAL'S AROUND, EH. THAT'S RATHER AMUSING, MR . . .?
CARL FLIEDMAN AT YOUR SERVICE - FROM HAMBURG.
THIS NAME, TOO, RANG A BELL IN ORDWAY'S MIND.

BUT THE ARRIVAL OF THE PURSER PUT AN END TO THE PRE-FLIGHT PARTY.
WILL YOU PLEASE GO TO YOUR CABINS. WE SHALL BE BLASTING OFF SHORTLY.

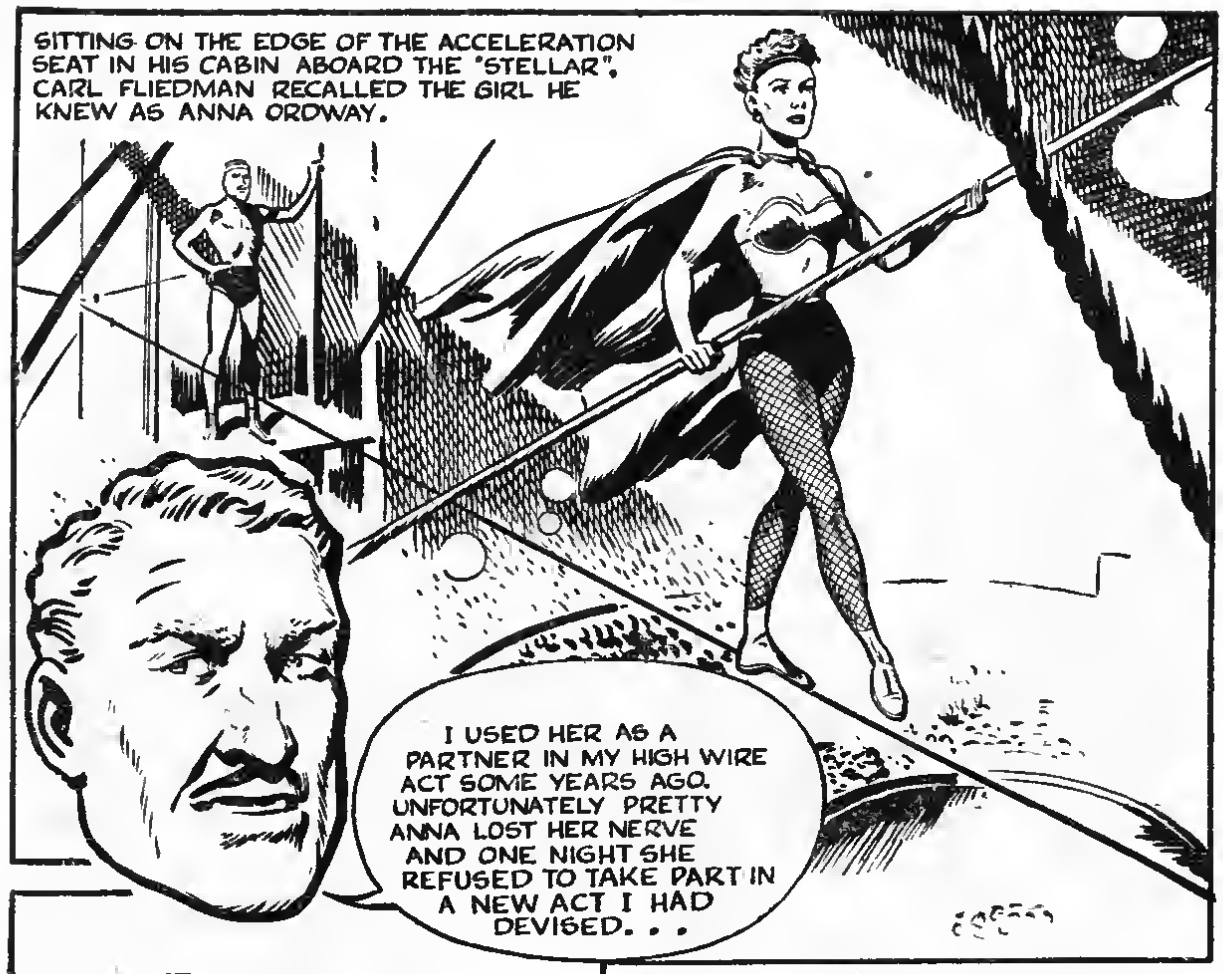
JOHN ORDWAY FOLLOWED CARL FLIEDMAN TO HIS CABIN.
MAY I COME IN? MY NAME'S ORDWAY. BY THE WAY, WHY DID YOU SAY YOU WERE TAKING THIS TRIP?
I DID NOT SAY, MY FRIEND. IT IS - - MY OWN CONCERN.

BUT YOU AND ME AND AT LEAST ONE OTHER PERSON ABOARD, HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON! WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON THE "STELLAR," FLIEDMAN?

WHY SHOULD I NOT TELL YOU! THE OPPORTUNITY WAS SO UNEXPECTEDLY FORTUNATE, THE FARE SO TEMPTING, THAT I WONDERED. .

BUT THE NAME MAYER MEANT NOTHING TO YOU? WHAT ABOUT MY NAME?
WAIT! ORDWAY! I DO REMEMBER. .

ANNA ORDWAY-- OH, BUT THAT WAS LONG AGO.

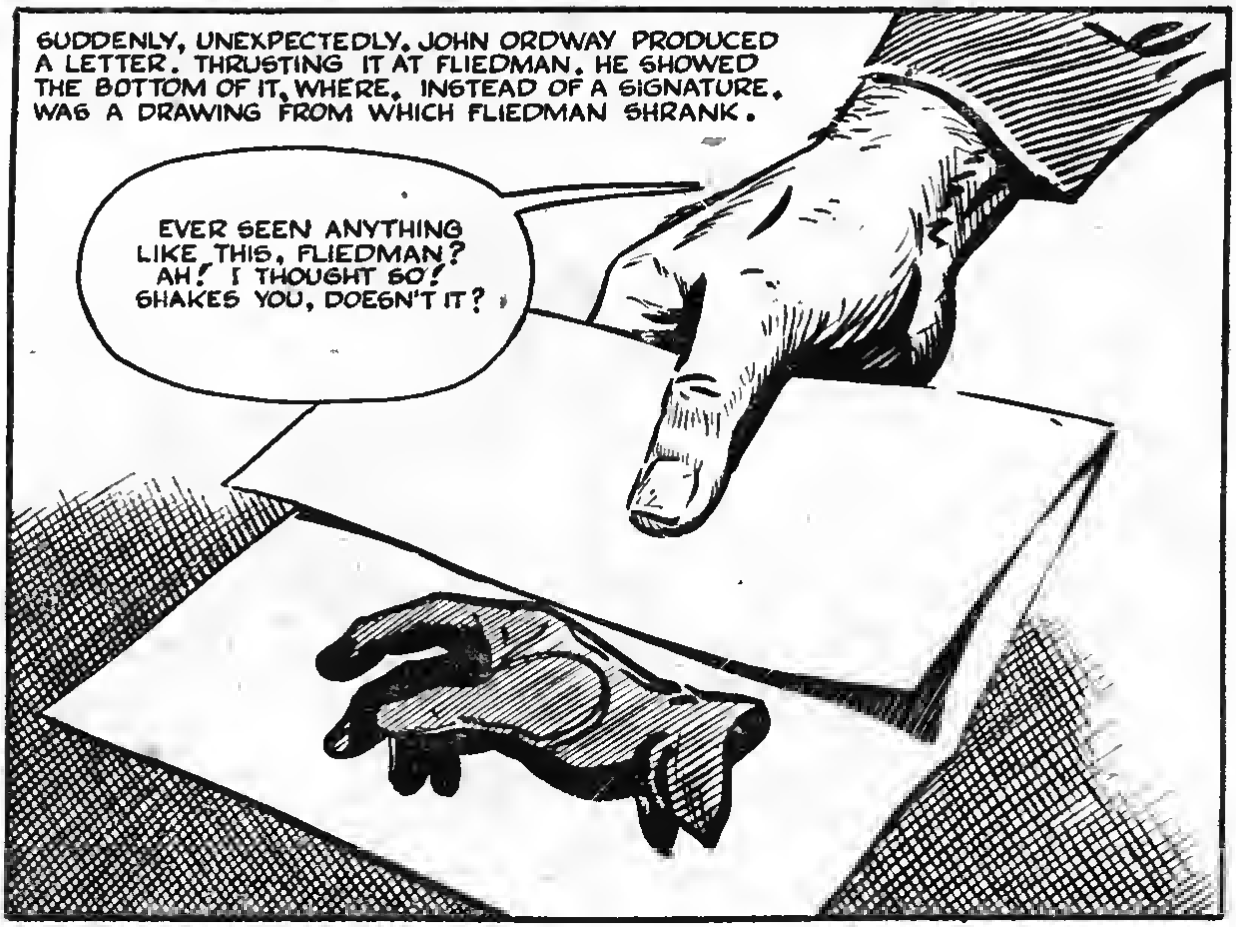

SITTING ON THE EDGE OF THE ACCELERATION SEAT IN HIS CABIN ABOARD THE "STELLAR", CARL FLIEDMAN RECALLED THE GIRL HE KNEW AS ANNA ORDWAY.
I USED HER AS A PARTNER IN MY HIGH WIRE ACT SOME YEARS AGO. UNFORTUNATELY PRETTY ANNA LOST HER NERVE AND ONE NIGHT SHE REFUSED TO TAKE PART IN A NEW ACT I HAD DEVISED. . .

NO, CARL! I CAN'T. . NOT THIS NEW STUNT. .
BUT I SAY YOU SHALL!

AND CARL WENT ON TO TELL OF THE GRIM THRILL THAT HAD PETRIFIED THE CIRCUS AUDIENCE THAT FATEFUL NIGHT!
SHE'S LOST HER FOOTING. . LOOK OUT!

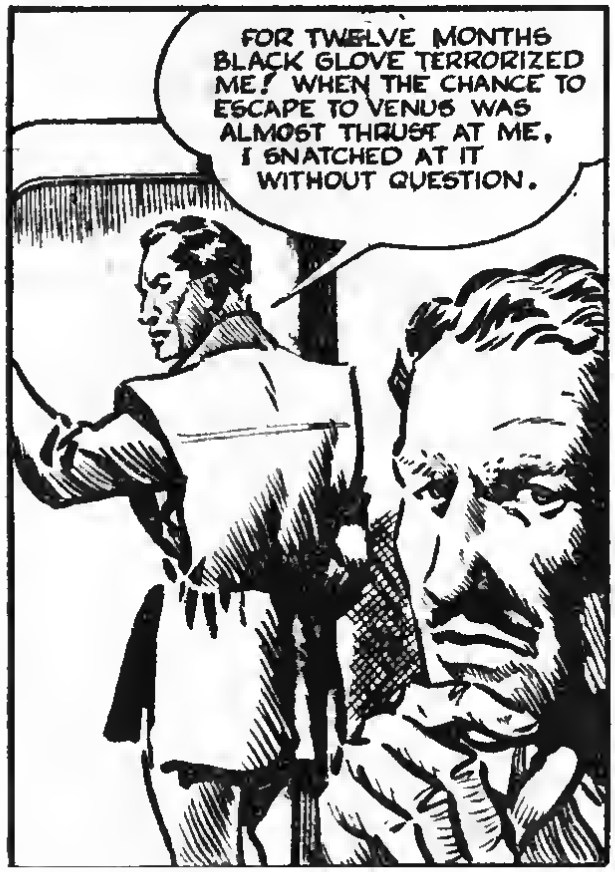
YOU FORCED ANNA TO WALK THAT HIGH WIRE! AND SHE FELL! WELL, WHAT HAPPENED TO HER?
FORCED? A LIE! AT THE ENQUIRY I WAS EXONERATED.

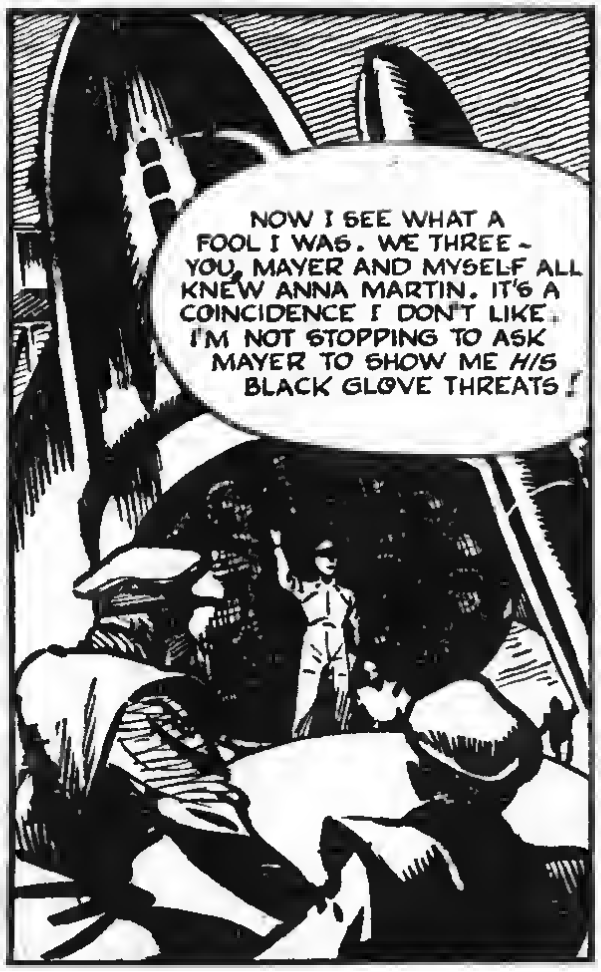
AS FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO POOR ANNA - HOW SHOULD I KNOW? WHO KNOWS OR CARES WHAT HAPPENS TO THE BIRD THAT BREAKS A WING?


SUDDENLY, UNEXPECTEDLY, JOHN ORDWAY PRODUCED A LETTER. THRUSTING IT AT FLIEDMAN, HE SHOWED THE BOTTOM OF IT, WHERE, INSTEAD OF A SIGNATURE, WAS A DRAWING FROM WHICH FLIEDMAN SHRANK.
EVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS, FLIEDMAN? AH! I THOUGHT SO! SHAKES YOU, DOESN'T IT?

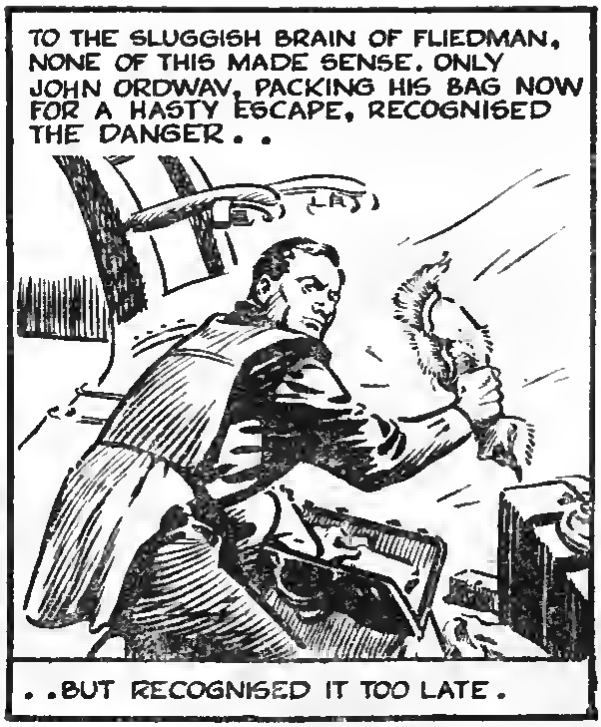
THE GLOVE.. THE BLACK GLOVE! YOU TOO..

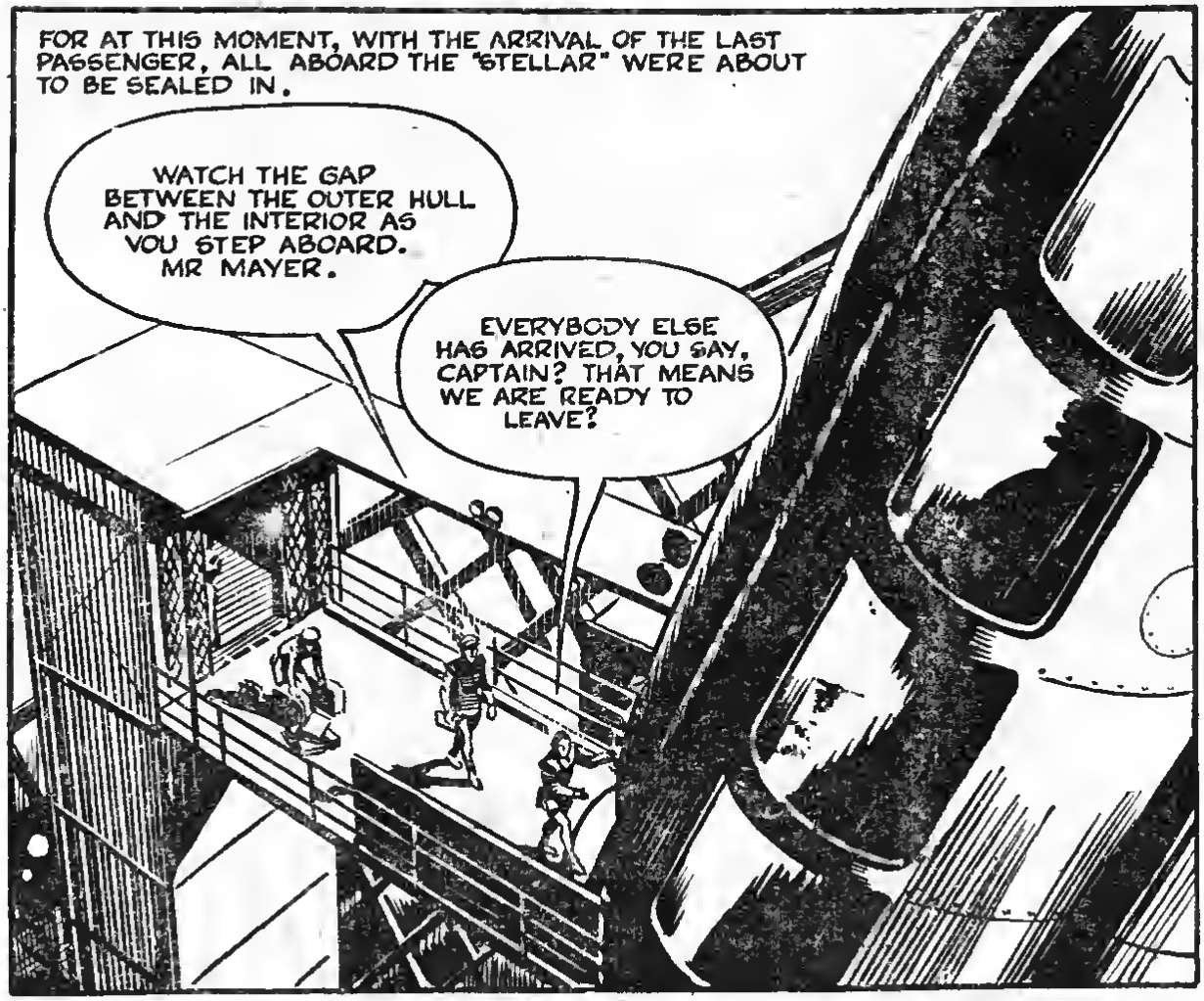
YES, THE BLACK GLOVE, FLIEDMAN! DID IT DRIVE YOU SLOWLY TO THE BREAKING POINT OF TERROR AS IT DID ME?


FOR TWELVE MONTHS BLACK GLOVE TERRORIZED ME! WHEN THE CHANCE TO ESCAPE TO VENUS WAS ALMOST THRUST AT ME, I SNATCHED AT IT WITHOUT QUESTION.


NOW I SEE WHAT A FOOL I WAS. WE THREE - YOU, MAYER AND MYSELF ALL KNEW ANNA MARTIN. IT'S A COINCIDENCE I DON'T LIKE. I'M NOT STOPPING TO ASK MAYER TO SHOW ME *HIS* BLACK GLOVE THREATS!

HAVE A GOOD TRIP TO VENUS! I SHAN'T BE COMING WITH YOU, FLIEDMAN!


TO THE SLUGGISH BRAIN OF FLIEDMAN, NONE OF THIS MADE SENSE. ONLY JOHN ORDWAY, PACKING HIS BAG NOW FOR A HASTY ESCAPE, RECOGNISED THE DANGER..
..BUT RECOGNISED IT TOO LATE.


FOR AT THIS MOMENT, WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE LAST PASSENGER, ALL ABOARD THE "STELLAR" WERE ABOUT TO BE SEALED IN.
WATCH THE GAP BETWEEN THE OUTER HULL AND THE INTERIOR AS YOU STEP ABOARD. MR MAYER.
EVERYBODY ELSE HAS ARRIVED, YOU SAY, CAPTAIN? THAT MEANS WE ARE READY TO LEAVE?

AS THE PASSENGER HATCH OF THE SPACER WAS LOCKED HOME, FOR SOME ABOARD, THE SANDS OF LIFE WERE ALREADY RUNNING SWIFTLY OUT.. BUT LANCE VANE HAD NO INKLING OF THE SHOCKS IN STORE AS HE CHATTED TO THE MULTI-MILLIONAIRE..
THE SOONER WE LEAVE, THE BETTER, MR MAYER. VENUS ON HER SHORTER ORBIT IS ALREADY DRAWING AWAY FROM EARTH. I'LL SHOW YOU TO YOUR CABIN.
NO NEED, CAPTAIN. I KNOW THE STELLAR - TRAVELLED ON HER IN THE OLD DAYS WHEN SHE WAS A C.C. SPACER.

LANCE VANE MADE HIS WAY TOWARDS THE CONTROL CABIN.

..AND JOHN ORDWAY MADE HIS HURRIED PREPARATIONS FOR ESCAPE WHILST HE SUPPOSED THERE STILL TO BE TIME.

HIGH UP IN THE CONTROL CABIN OF THE "STELLAR," WHICH, LIKE THE PASSENGER AND LIVING QUARTERS, AUTOMATICALLY ADJUSTED ITSELF TO THE ALTITUDE OF THE SPACER, LANCE VANE BEGAN THE LONG ROUTINE OF PRE-BLAST-OFF CHECKS.
CAPTAIN TO PURSER. CHECK ALL PASSENGERS STRAPPED DOWN FOR ACCELERATION. WE BLAST OFF TWENTY MINUTES FROM NOW.

IS THIS NECESSARY, PURSER? IT FEELS LIKE A CROSS BETWEEN HAVING A PERM AND THE ELECTRIC CHAIR!
SORRY, MISS JASON. STRAPPED INTO THIS SEAT AND WITH THE HELMET DOWN YOU WON'T FEEL THE ACCELERATION EFFECTS - AND IT WON'T BE LONG NOW.
THE PURSER VISITED THE CABINS ONE BY ONE. THE EXPERIENCED SPACE TRAVELLERS DID NOT NEED HIS HELP.

GOOD! YOU'RE ALL OKAY, ARE YOU, MR ORDWAY?

NO REPLY CAME FROM JOHN ORDWAY, HELMETED, APPARENTLY WAITING. THE PURSER TURNED AWAY FROM THE CABIN. .

AND THEN THE PURSER, TOSSING A MASCOT CHARM INTO THE AIR, LET IT SLIP BETWEEN HIS FINGERS. IT ROLLED BACK INTO ORDWAY'S CABIN. . BEHIND ORDWAY'S CHAIR . .
OH, EXCUSE ME, SIR . . . MY LUCKY MASCOT . .
IN THE FABRIC BACK OF THE CHAIR, THE PURSER SAW SOMETHING TERRIBLE - - AND KNEW WHY ORDWAY HAD NOT ACKNOWLEDGED HIS PREVIOUS ENQUIRY!

WITH FRANTIC HASTE THE PURSER RACED UP TO THE CONTROL CABIN.

IT'S MURDER, CAPTAIN -- THE MAN IN CABIN 4, -- MR ORDWAY!

RICK RANDOM WAS MAKING HIS WAY OUT TO THE MELBOURNE HELIBUS WHEN LANCE VANE'S MESSAGE WAS GIVEN TO HIM.
MR RANDOM? COULD YOU PLEASE COME TO THE CONTROL OFFICE? THE CAPTAIN OF THE 'STELLAR' IS ON THE R.T. FOR YOU -- SAYS IT IS IMPORTANT.

A FEW WORDS FROM LANCE MADE RICK FORGET HIS IMPATIENCE TO RETURN TO MELBOURNE . .
RIGHT, LANCE. I'LL COME OVER TO YOU AT ONCE.

LANCE MET RICK ON THE PASSENGER LANDING STAGE AS HE STEPPED OUT OF THE LIFT.
YOU'RE NOT FOOLING ME, LANCE ~YOU REALLY *HAVE* A MURDER ON YOUR HANDS?
COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF! NO MAN CAN STRAP HIMSELF INTO AN ACCELERATION SEAT, AND THEN STAB HIMSELF IN THE BACK!

LANCE TOOK RICK TO ORDWAY'S CABIN.
WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT?
I'M GUESSING HARD~ NEVER CAME UP AGAINST ANYTHING LIKE *THIS* BEFORE.

THIS BLACK GLOVE ~ THE FIBRES ARE SOMEHOW FUSED TO THE HILT OF THE KNIFE.

SO MUCH FOR THE VENUS TRIP. WE WERE DUE TO BLAST OFF IN FIVE MINUTES FROM NOW.

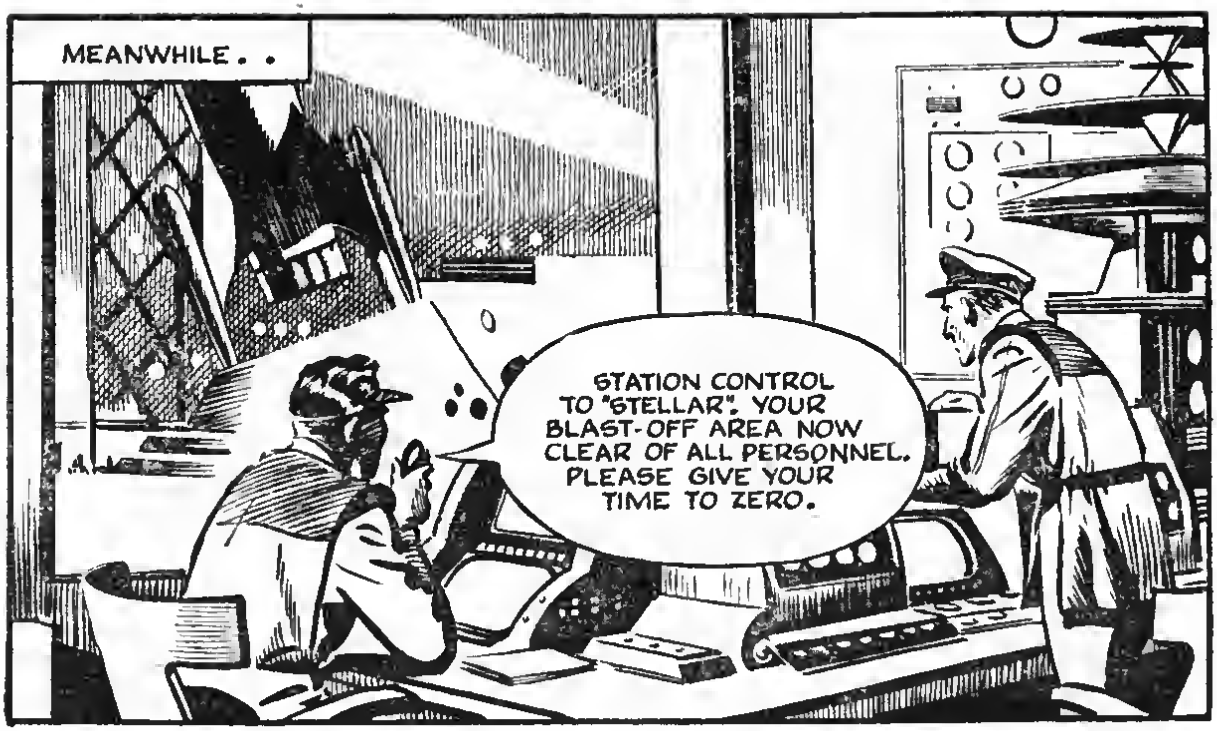
WAIT, LANCE! AM I RIGHT IN THINKING THAT NOBODY CAN HAVE LEFT THE "STELLAR" SINCE THE MURDER TOOK PLACE?

THAT'S TRUE! AND IT MEANS THAT THE MURDERER IS ABOARD NOW!

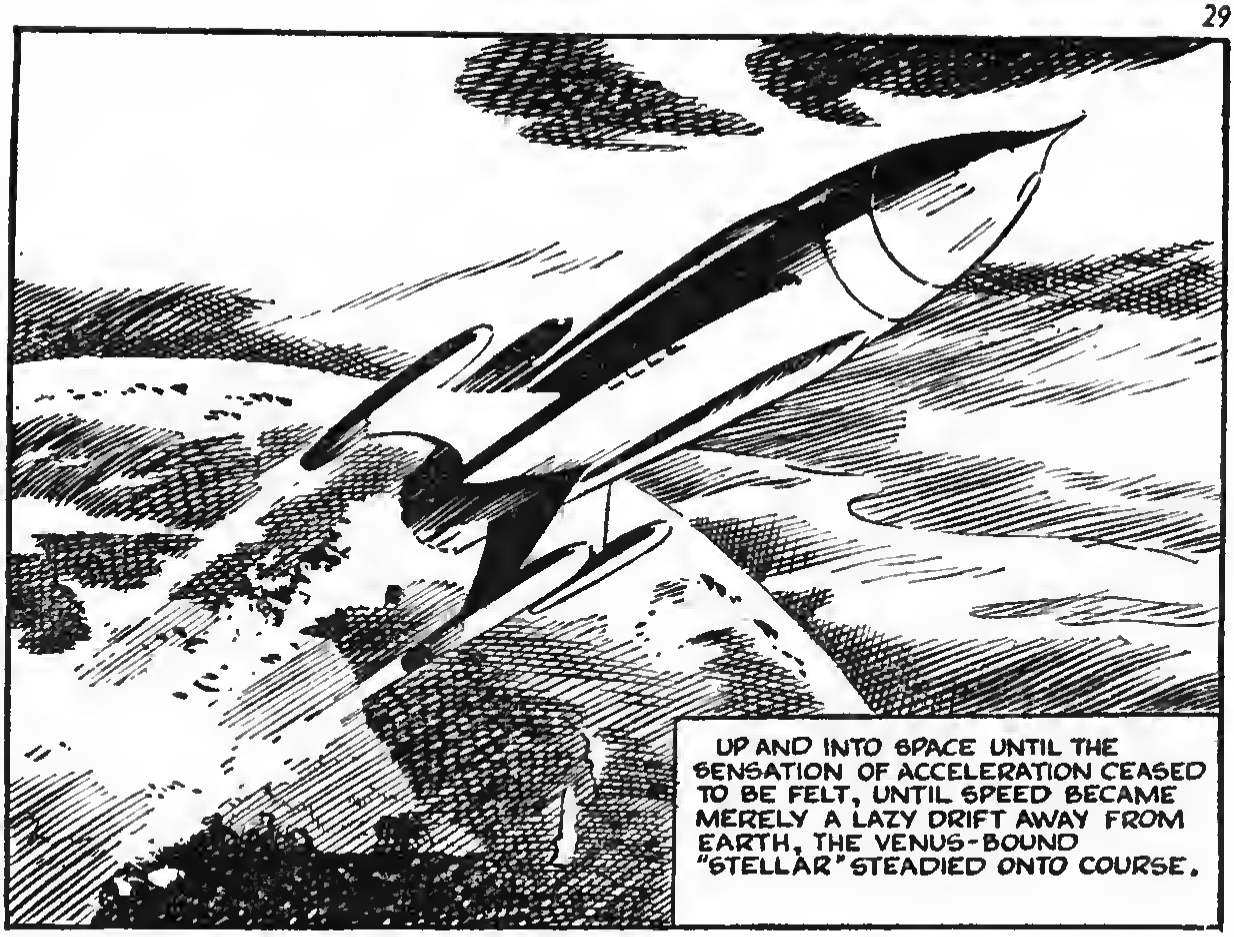
EXACTLY--EIGHT PASSENGERS AND A CREW OF SIX! ONE, A MURDERER!
AN EASY CASE FOR YOU TO CRACK OPEN, RICK!

YOU'RE WRONG, LANCE! SO FAR THIS IS A MURDER WITHOUT ONE WORTHWHILE CLUE!
BUT YOU'VE GOT ALL YOUR SUSPECTS!

I CAN'T KEEP THEM HERE AT THE SPACE STATION INDEFINITELY. IN FACT, THERE'S ONLY *ONE* WAY I CAN KEEP THEM ALL TOGETHER LONG ENOUGH TO SOLVE THE CASE.
AND THAT IS . . ?


MEANWHILE . .
STATION CONTROL TO "STELLAR". YOUR BLAST-OFF AREA NOW CLEAR OF ALL PERSONNEL. PLEASE GIVE YOUR TIME TO ZERO.

I'M GOING WITH YOU, LANCE, AS ONE OF YOUR CREW! GO AHEAD - BLAST OFF. ABOARD THE "STELLAR" I AM THE LAW, AND THE AUTHORITIES ON VENUS CAN DEAL WITH THE MURDERER WHEN I'VE CAUGHT HIM - OR HER!
MINUTES LATER, THE DRAMA ABOARD THE "STELLAR" UNSUSPECTED AT THE SPACE STATION, THE INTERPLANETARY LINER BLASTED OFF - - ABOARD HER THE MURDERER, HIS FIRST VICTIM, AND . . . RICK RANDOM!


UP AND INTO SPACE UNTIL THE SENSATION OF ACCELERATION CEASED TO BE FELT, UNTIL SPEED BECAME MERELY A LAZY DRIFT AWAY FROM EARTH, THE VENUS-BOUND "STELLAR" STEADIED ONTO COURSE.

OKAY.-THAT'S PEAK VELOCITY. LET'S GO DOWN AND "DISCOVER" OUR MURDER, RICK. AFTER THAT- IT'S UP TO YOU!

IN THE "STELLAR'S" PASSENGER LOUNGE, LANCE VANE TOLD THE NEWS OF ORDWAY'S MURDER TO A GROUP AMONGST WHOM THERE WAS AT LEAST ONE WHO ALREADY KNEW IT. WHICH ONE? RICK WATCHED THE FACES INTENTLY.
BUT THIS IS TERRIBLE. THE MURDERER MUST STILL BE AMONGST US.!
EXACTLY, MRS McCLOUD!

THE BEHAVIOUR OF ONE PASSENGER, CARL FLIEDMAN, EXCITED RICK'S IMMEDIATE SUSPICION.
HE'S WORRIED! WHY? COULD THE MURDERER HAVE HOPED SUSPICION WAS GOING TO FALL ON SOMEONE LEFT BEHIND ON EARTH?

THE NERVOUS FLIEDMAN, AS IF CONSCIOUS OF BEING FOLLOWED, TURNED. RICK DODGED BACK AND SUDDENLY ENCOUNTERED ANOTHER OF THE PASSENGERS.
SHHH... SORRY I STARTLED YOU, MISS MANCINI.

THE TERROR OF ISABELLA MANCINI WAS COMPLETELY CONVINCING. RICK RANDOM SENSED THAT IT WAS DEEPER THAN ANY NATURAL NERVOUSNESS CAUSED BY THE MURDER. KNOWING THAT HE MUST SATISFY HER CURIOSITY ABOUT HIS REQUEST FOR SILENCE, HE DECIDED TO PLAY A HUNCH.
BETTER TRUST ME AND TELL ME EVERYTHING. YOU'RE SCARED, AREN'T YOU? YOU NEEDN'T BE OF ME. I'M INVESTIGATING THIS MURDER.
I-I THINK I CAN TRUST YOU. OF COURSE I'M SCARED! THAT KNIFE WAS MEANT FOR ME!

UP IN THE OBSERVATION PROMENADE, WHERE THEY WOULD NOT BE DISTURBED, ISABELLA TOLD HER STORY. . .

YOU DIDN'T KNOW ANNA WAS DEAD UNTIL YOU HAD THIS LETTER?
NO, I SWEAR I DIDN'T. IT WAS ALL SO LONG AGO.

I WAS TERRIFIED BY THE LETTER . . . AND THEN SOMETHING WONDERFUL HAPPENED.

MY BROTHER IS LIVING AT VENUSBERG. I HAD A COSMACODE FROM HIM ASKING ME TO JOIN HIM. HE SAID A FRIEND, VISITING EARTH, WOULD CONTACT ME AND ARRANGE MY PASSAGE. AND THAT IS WHAT HAPPENED.

YOU SEE - THE FLOWERS WERE IN BUD. .THE LILIES AND THE LILAC THEY USE FOR WREATHS!

RICK TOOK ISABELLA MANCINI DOWN TO THE PASSENGER DINING-ROOM. THE ROUTINE OF LIVING HAD BEGUN ABOARD THE "STELLAR". FROM THE DOORWAY HE MADE HER STUDY HER FELLOW PASSENGERS.

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANY OF THESE PEOPLE BEFORE, ISABELLA? FLIEDMAN, FOR INSTANCE?

NO! THOUGH THERE IS SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT THE DANISH MAN, KURT LISTGAARD.

A SUDDEN SHOT SHATTERED THE QUIET OF THE COSMACODE ROOM. IT SHATTERED ALSO THE DELICATE COSMIC RADAR INSTRUMENT THAT WAS THE STELLARS' ONLY LINK WITH THE EARTH. NEXT MOMENT THE UNKNOWN GUNMAN HAD ESCAPED!

WITH NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE NOW, RICK REVEALED HIS IDENTITY AND CROSS-EXAMINED LISTGAARD.
INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU, LISTGAARD.
I'D A HUNCH I'D SEEN YOU SOMEWHERE, COPPER.

SUPPOSE YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THE ORDWAY BUSINESS?

ORDWAY! HERE, I'M NOT MIXED UP IN THAT! MURDER'S NOT MY LINE!
CAN YOU PROVE IT ISN'T WHY YOU'RE ABOARD THE "STELLAR"?

YOU'LL SEARCH ANYWAY. NOW YOU'VE PUT THE FINGER ON ME. THIS IS WHAT I'M DOING ABOARD--OPIUM SEEDS!

RICK RANDOM EXAMINED THE CONTRABAND. THE INTERPLANETARY NARCOTICS BOARD HAD ALWAYS TAKEN STRONG STEPS TO PREVENT THE CULTIVATION OF EARTH-DRUGS ON ANY OF THE NEW WORLDS.

YOU'RE TAKING A CHANCE TELLING ME THIS, LISTGAARD. YOU KNOW THE PENALTIES FOR INTRODUCING OPIUM ONTO ANY OF THE PLANETS.

COME OFF IT, RANDOM. I'M A CROOK WITH A YARD LONG RECORD! THERE'S BEEN A MURDER ON THIS SHIP, AND YOU WANT AN ARREST. OKAY! I'M WISE TO TELL THE TRUTH.

RICK HESITATED. HE *DIDN'T* KNOW LISTGAARD'S RECORD! DID LISTGAARD KNOW THAT? WAS LISTGAARD BLUFFING?

IS THIS THE TRUTH? WHERE DID YOU GET THE SEED? WHY ARE YOU TRAVELLING ABOARD THE 'STELLAR'?

SURE IT'S THE TRUTH, BUT I'M NO MORE THAN A MIDDLEMAN. AN APPROACH WAS MADE TO ME IN BELGRADE BY A MAN WHO WAS A STRANGER..

..I WAS PAID IN ADVANCE AND EVERYTHING FIXED, INCLUDING MY PASSAGE!

JUST ONE MORE QUESTION, LISTGAARD. DOES THE NAME ANNA MARTIN MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?

ANNA . !

EVEN AS RICK WONDERED IF HE HAD SURPRISED LISTGAARD INTO REVEALING ANOTHER CLUE, THE DOOR OF THE CABIN BURST OPEN. IT WAS LANCE.
RICK! THERE YOU ARE! COME QUICKLY! IT'S FLIEDMAN. .

RICK RACED TO FLIEDMAN'S CABIN. FLIEDMAN HAD BEEN TOP OF THE SUSPECT LIST. BUT NOW. .

I GOT HIM DOWN ALIVE, BUT I'M AFRAID IT WAS TOO LATE. HE'S CONSCIOUS, BUT HE'S GOING FAST.
CARL FLIEDMAN HAD BEEN HANGED! BY A BLACK ROPE! BY A ROPE, THE STRANDS OF WHICH WERE CUNNINGLY WOVEN INTO THE FABRIC OF A BLACK GLOVE!

BUT FLIEDMAN DID NOT DIE WITHOUT PROVIDING, WITH HIS LAST CONSCIOUS WHISPER, ONE MORE TANTALIZING PIECE OF INFORMATION! SEEING LISTGAARD, A LOOK OF PUZZLED RECOGNITION FLICKERED INTO HIS EYES.

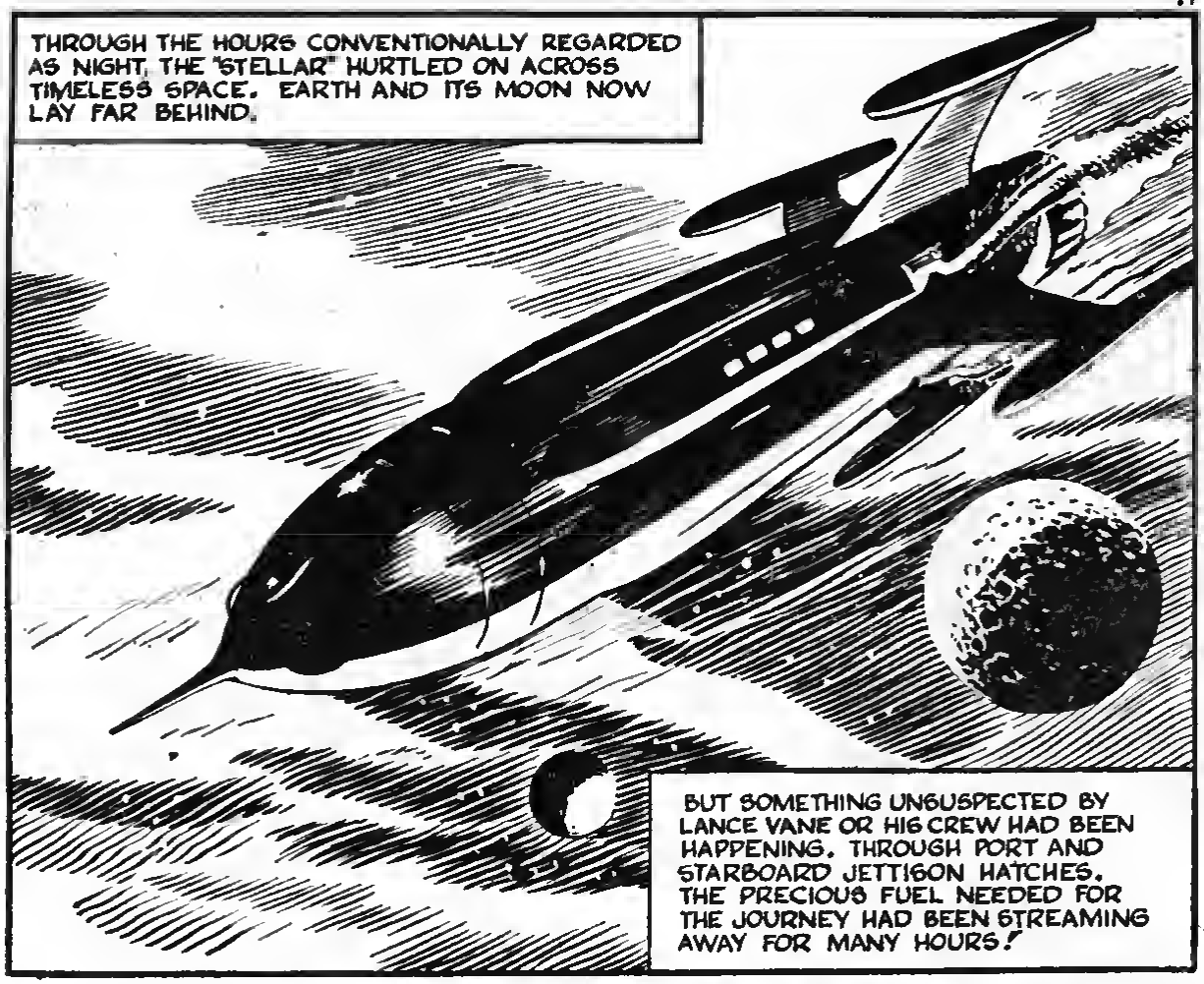
YOU. .YOU. . NOW I REMEMBER . .YOU USED TO COME TO THE CIRCUS!

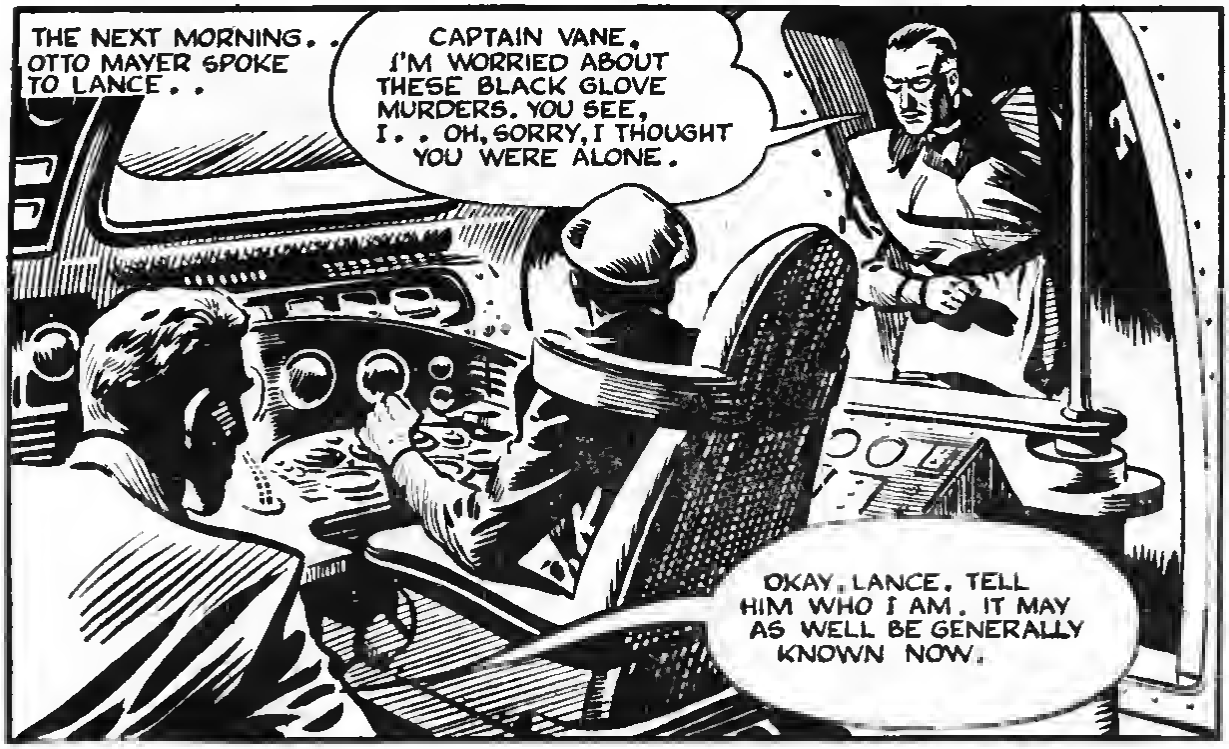
PUZZLED, RICK BEGAN TO FIT THE PIECES OF THE JIGSAW TOGETHER.

ISABELLA SAID ANNA WAS IN THE CIRCUS. THIS MEANS THERE IS A LINK BETWEEN ANNA, ISABELLA, FLIEDMAN AND LISTGAARD! PROBABLY ORDWAY, TOO. AND FRAU HAUSSEN CAME FROM WHERE ANNA DIED!

I TELL YOU I DON'T KNOW WHAT FLIEDMAN MEANT. I NEVER HEARD OF ANNA MARTIN, EITHER!

FOR HOURS RICK QUESTIONED LISTGAARD. BUT THE MAN WAS SCARED AND WOULD NOT TALK ANY MORE.


THROUGH THE HOURS CONVENTIONALLY REGARDED AS NIGHT, THE "STELLAR" HURTLED ON ACROSS TIMELESS SPACE. EARTH AND ITS MOON NOW LAY FAR BEHIND.
BUT SOMETHING UNSUSPECTED BY LANCE VANE OR HIS CREW HAD BEEN HAPPENING. THROUGH PORT AND STARBOARD JETTISON HATCHES, THE PRECIOUS FUEL NEEDED FOR THE JOURNEY HAD BEEN STREAMING AWAY FOR MANY HOURS!


THE NEXT MORNING. . OTTO MAYER SPOKE TO LANCE. .
CAPTAIN VANE, I'M WORRIED ABOUT THESE BLACK GLOVE MURDERS. YOU SEE, I. . OH, SORRY, I THOUGHT YOU WERE ALONE.
OKAY, LANCE. TELL HIM WHO I AM. IT MAY AS WELL BE GENERALLY KNOWN NOW.

IT'S A GREAT RELIEF TO KNOW YOU ARE ABOARD, MR RANDOM.
TELL ME ABOUT THE BLACK GLOVES, MR MAYER!

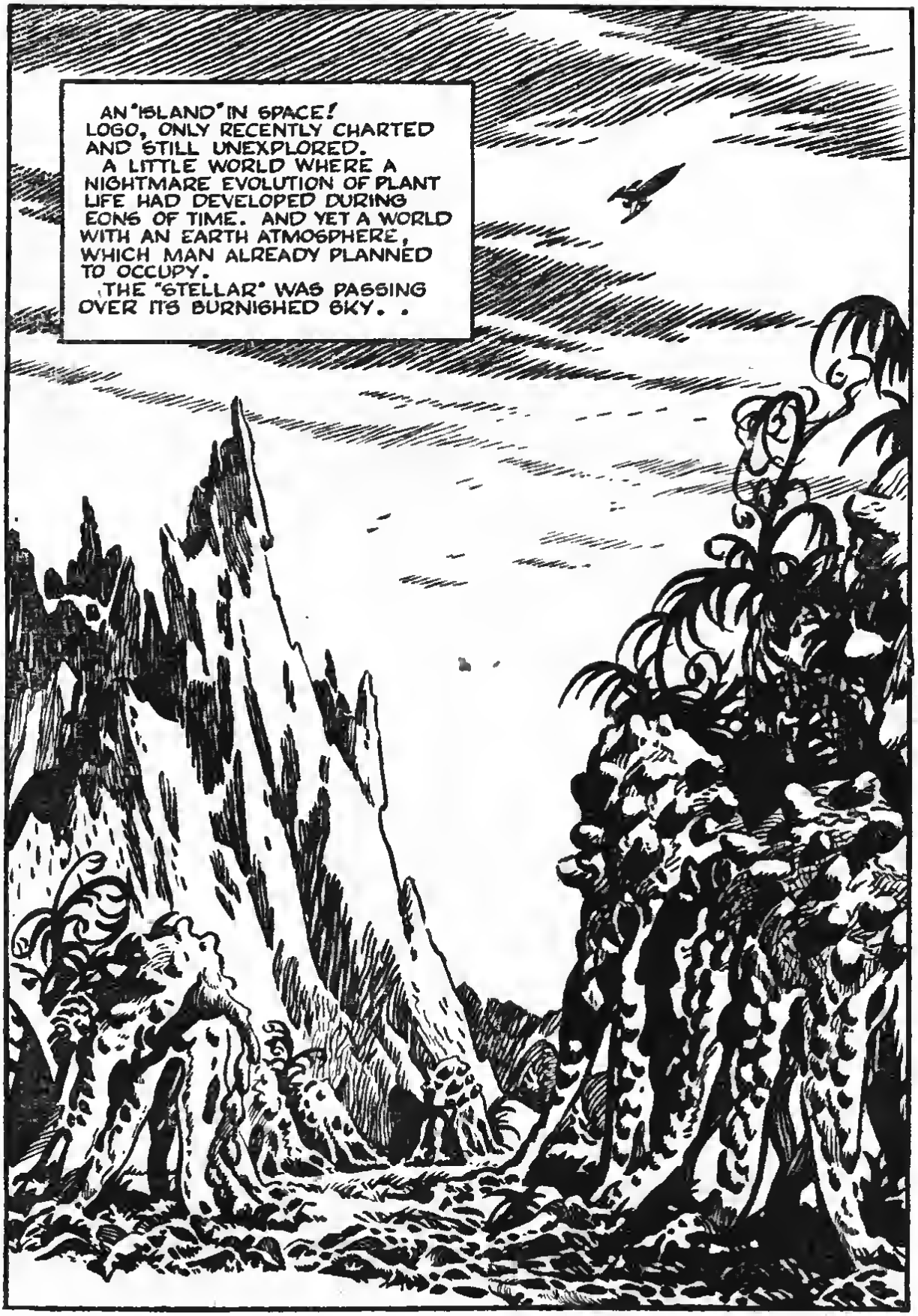
THERE WERE TWO SUCH THREATENING LETTERS, SIGNED WITH A GLOVE, TO MY RECOLLECTION. BUT A MAN LIKE MYSELF IS A TARGET FOR CRANKS, AND I HAD FORGOTTEN THEM--UNTIL NOW.

THEY DIDN'T LEAD YOU TO CHARTERING THE "STELLAR"?
OF COURSE NOT. THIS IS A BUSINESS TRIP AND WAS PLANNED LONG AGO.

WHO ARRANGED YOUR TRIP, MR MAYER?
A MAN CALLED FRANKS. HE'D HEARD SOMEHOW THAT I HAD TO MAKE THIS TRIP AND CONTACTED ME, OFFERING TO ORGANISE THE WHOLE THING FOR ME. EFFICIENT FELLOW. .
AS THIS CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE, AND RICK HEARD THE NAME OF FRANKS AGAIN, THE SMOOTH PURR OF THE "STELLAR'S" GREAT MOTORS CHANGED TO A STUTTER.

AND THEN . .
THE MOTORS HAVE CUT! THE FUEL TANKS ARE EMPTY! THE JETTISON PORTS ARE WIDE OPEN! IT'S SABOTAGE, BECAUSE THE GAUGES HAD BEEN "FIXED". WE'RE DRIFTING WITH ONLY OUR EMERGENCY TANKS LEFT!
LANCE VANE QUICKLY WORKED OUT WHAT COULD BE DONE. . ABOUT AN HOUR LATER, IN THE NAVIGATIONAL TELEVIEWER, LANCE SHOWED RICK AND MAYER THEIR ONLY POSSIBLE DESTINATION NOW. . .

THAT'S LOGO WITHOUT A DOUBT, AND WE'RE JUST OUTSIDE HER GRAVITATIONAL ZONE. WHOEVER SABOTAGED OUR FUEL MEANT US TO BE CASTAWAYS DOWN THERE!


AN "ISLAND" IN SPACE! LOGO, ONLY RECENTLY CHARTED AND STILL UNEXPLORED.
A LITTLE WORLD WHERE A NIGHTMARE EVOLUTION OF PLANT LIFE HAD DEVELOPED DURING EONS OF TIME. AND YET A WORLD WITH AN EARTH ATMOSPHERE, WHICH MAN ALREADY PLANNED TO OCCUPY.
THE "STELLAR" WAS PASSING OVER ITS BURNISHED SKY. .

YOU MEAN WE CAN'T MAKE VENUS?
VENUS! WE CAN'T EVEN GET BACK TO EARTH. WE EITHER ORBIT LOGO ETERNALLY, OR LAND THERE.

YOU'LL HAVE ALL THE TIME YOU NEED TO FIND OUT WHICH OF US IS BLACK GLOVE, RICK. BUT I'M HANGED IF I SEE WHAT GOOD THE INFORMATION IS GOING TO DO THE REST OF US.
LANCE WAS ANGRY, ANXIOUS -- ALTHOUGH HE KNEW THAT SEARCH FOR THE "STELLAR" WOULD BE MADE, AND LOGO EVENTUALLY INVESTIGATED.

WITH PASSENGERS AND CREW SECURED FOR THE LANDING, LANCE VANE, USING HIS EMERGENCY TANKS, SHORTLY AFTERWARDS NURSED THE "STELLAR" DOWN TO THE SURFACE OF THE HOSTILE SPACE ISLAND.

DURING THE DESCENT WHICH, LESS VIOLENT THAN A BLAST-OFF, PERMITTED CONVERSATION. RICK QUESTIONED MAYER, IN THE LATTER'S STATEROOM.

YOU SAY YOUR TRIP WAS ARRANGED BY A MR FRANKS - THE SAME NAME AS FRAU HAUSSEN'S SOLICITOR. DID YOU EVER KNOW ANNA MARTIN?

YES - YES, BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?

ANOTHER LINK ESTABLISHED! RICK FELT EXCITED. IF THEY SURVIVED A LANDING ON LOGO HE WOULD CRACK THIS CASE EVEN YET!

NEVER MIND HOW I KNOW THESE THINGS, MR MAYER. TELL ME ABOUT ANNA!

OH, SHE WAS A PRETTY LITTLE THING! I MET HER ON A CONTINENTAL BUSINESS TRIP - - TOOK HER OUT TO DINNER AND A DANCE A FEW TIMES.

DID YOU CAUSE HER HARM IN ANY WAY?

A STRANGE QUESTION! UNLESS, OF COURSE, SHE HAD UNFULFILLED HOPES OF MARRYING A MILLIONAIRE!

WHILST THE UNCANNY TREE-THINGS OF LOGO "SENSED" INVASION, OTTO MAYER TOLD THE LIES THAT WERE LATER TO PROVE HIS UNDOING.

THE "STELLAR" CAME GENTLY TO GROUND, HER ARRESTOR JETS BLASTING AND BURNING A CLEARING AMONGST THE HORRID VEGETATION. . .

. . BUT WHEN CREW AND PASSENGERS CAME DOWN TO THE ENTRANCE HATCH AND OPENED IT, AN UNCANNY, BLOOD CURDLING WAILING MADE THEM DRAW BACK. .

FOR PETE'S SAKE, WHAT'S THAT NOISE. . IT'S LIKE DEVILS IN TORMENT.

COULD BE YOU'RE RIGHT! IT'S THE SCORCHED VEGETATION SCREAMING OUT IN PAIN!

IT WAS TRUE! THE TREE-THINGS OF LOGO WERE COMING TO ATTACK THE SPACE-SHIP!
LIKE UNDULATING SNAKES THEY TRANSPLANTED THEMSELVES FORWARD STAGE BY STAGE, ALWAYS MOVING IN TOWARDS THE "STELLAR".

GET BACK AND GET THE HATCH CLOSED. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY CAN DO YET!

WHAT THEY COULD TRY TO DO WAS SOON CLEAR WHEN THEY SURROUNDED THE "STELLAR" IN INCREASING NUMBERS, SEEKING IN VAIN TO CRUSH AND DESTROY IT.

FROM BEHIND WINDOWS STOUT ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND TREMENDOUS SPACE PRESSURES, THE TRAVELLERS IN THE "STELLAR" WATCHED THE WRITHING TENTACLES OF THE TREE-THINGS IN HORROR -- BUT IN SAFETY.

UGH! AT LEAST THEY'LL NEVER CRACK THE "STELLAR'S" HULL.

ONE OF THEIR SENSES MUST BE A FORM OF 'SIGHT' UNKNOWN TO US. WITHOUT EYES THEY STILL SEE US!

IN THE PASSENGER LOUNGE, LANCE VANE ASSEMBLED CREW AND PASSENGERS AND DISCUSSED HIS PLAN OF CAMPAIGN.

IT'S GETTING DARK. BUT FROM THE EXTERIOR TEMPERATURE LOGO CANNOT HAVE A LONG NIGHT. IN THE MORNING WE'LL ATTACK THE TREES WITH THE ONE WEAPON WE KNOW THEY FEAR -- FLAME THROWERS.

BUT RICK RANDOM WAS SURE THAT NOT ALL THE DANGER TO THE "STELLAR" PASSENGERS WAS OUTSIDE IN THE NIGHT!
THIS IS MORE FEARSOME THAN BLACK GLOVE? EH, RICK?
I'M NOT SO SURE, LANCE. AND I'VE GOT A HUNCH THAT ALL THE PASSENGERS ARE SOMEHOW LINKED WITH THE MYSTERIOUS ANNA MARTIN.

THIS FELLOW FRANKS YOU WERE TELLING ME ABOUT, RICK. I'D DIRECT DEALINGS WITH HIM, YOU KNOW.
I'M CONVINCED HE WAS MERELY THE AGENT FOR BLACK GLOVE. -WHOEVER BLACK GLOVE IS!

FRANKS FIXED THE TRIP FOR MAYER - AND FRAU HAUSSEN. HE COULD HAVE BEEN ISABELLA'S "BROTHER'S FRIEND", AND JULIE JASON'S FILM AGENT. AND LISTGAARD CLAIMS A STRANGER ARRANGED HIS BOOKING..

RICK FOUND HIMSELF WONDERING ABOUT COLONEL AND MRS. McCLOUD. HE QUESTIONED THEM.
WE DO A LOT OF TRAVELLING, MR RANDOM. WE'D NO OTHER PURPOSE IN GOING TO VENUS, -BEYOND BEING TOURISTS.
CHAP WE MET IN AN HOTEL MENTIONED PASSAGES GOING BEGGING ON THE "STELLAR".

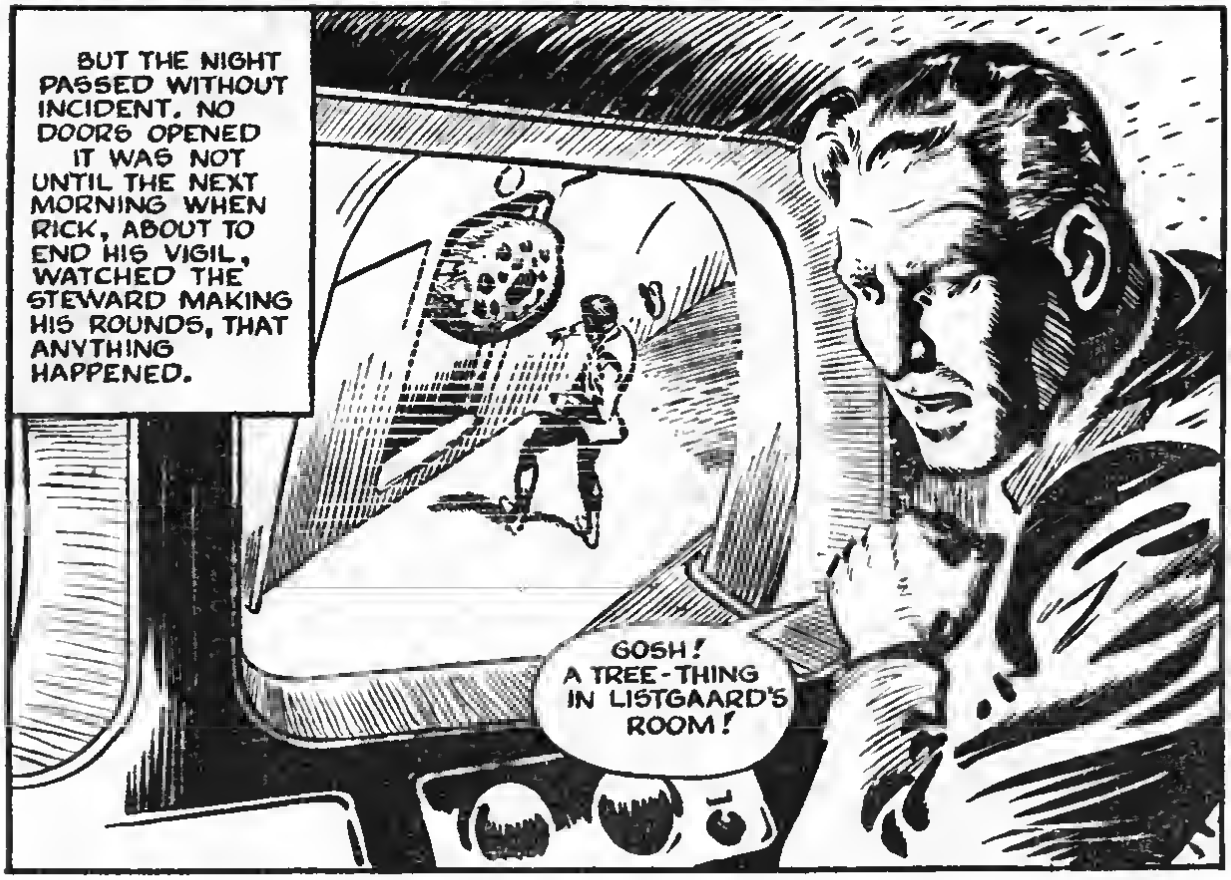
RICK WAS NOT REALLY SURPRISED. HE HAD EXPECTED THE HAND OF FRANKS.
DID YOU EVER KNOW AN ANNA MARTIN, COLONEL?
MARTIN? NO- I DON'T THINK SO. DID WE, MARY?

COULD THE McCLOUDS BE LYING? RICK DOUBTED IT.
ANNA MARTIN? NO DEAR. ALTHOUGH WE'VE MET SO MANY PEOPLE IN OUR TRAVELS.

RICK STUDIED THE PASSENGERS ASSEMBLED IN THE "STELLAR'S" LOUNGE. ONE WAS A MURDERER FOR WHOM FRANKS HAD MERELY BEEN AN AGENT. A MURDERER WHO WOULD STRIKE AGAIN. A MURDERER WITH A MAN'S STRENGTH. THAT RULED OUT JULIE JASON AND LEFT LISTGAARD STILL THE MOST OBVIOUS SUSPECT.

RICK DECIDED TO TAKE NO CHANCES THAT NIGHT. WITH THE HELP OF THE "STELLARS" COSMACODE OPERATOR, TELECAMERAS WERE ARRANGED UNOBTRUSIVELY.
THAT'LL COVER EVERY DOOR IN THIS CORRIDOR, MR RANDOM.

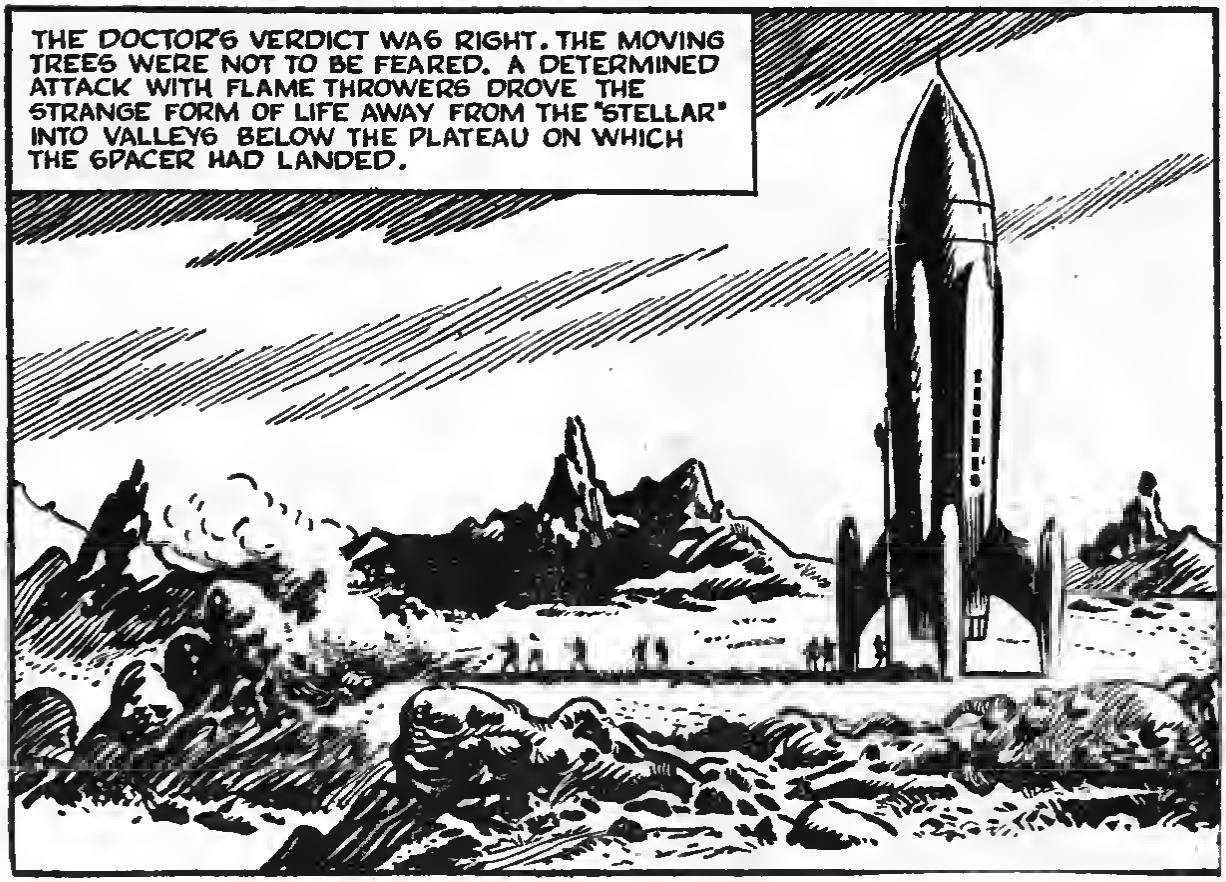
I SHALL STICK HERE ALL NIGHT, LANCE. THEY'RE ALL TURNING IN NOW. IF BLACK GLOVE GOES PROWLING TONIGHT I'LL HAVE HIM.


BUT THE NIGHT PASSED WITHOUT INCIDENT. NO DOORS OPENED IT WAS NOT UNTIL THE NEXT MORNING WHEN RICK, ABOUT TO END HIS VIGIL, WATCHED THE STEWARD MAKING HIS ROUNDS, THAT ANYTHING HAPPENED.
GOSH! A TREE-THING IN LISTGAARD'S ROOM!

RACING TO THE SCENE HE HAD WATCHED ON THE TELE-SCREEN RICK FOUND ACTION ALREADY BEING TAKEN.
IT MUST HAVE GOT IN THROUGH AN OPEN PORT. IT'S SCARED OF FIRE ALL RIGHT - JUST HEAR IT HOWL. I DON'T THINK WE NEED WORRY ABOUT THE TREE-THINGS AS LONG AS WE HAVE FLAME.
AN OPEN PORT! WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN, LANCE. BLACK GLOVE MUST HAVE OPENED THAT PORT BEFORE WE RIGGED UP THE CAMERAS AND THE PASSENGERS WENT TO BED. IT WAS IN HERE WAITING FOR LISTGAARD, AND I WAS SUSPECTING THE WRONG MAN.
SLOWLY, SCREAMING, THE TREE-THING RETREATED.

LISTGAARD'S DEAD ALL RIGHT~ HEART FAILURE.
HEART FAILURE! DIDN'T THE TREE~ THING STRANGLE HIM?

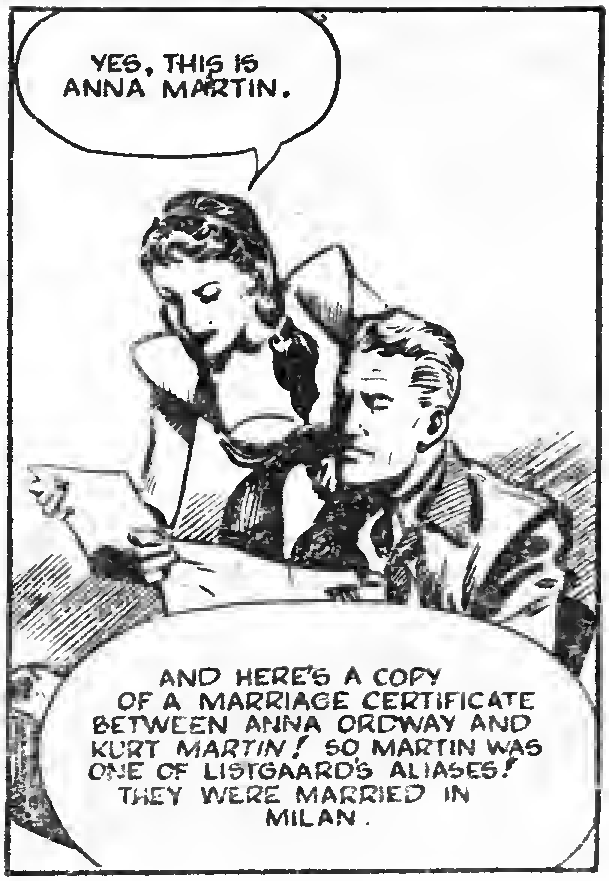
TRIED TO! BY THE LOOK OF IT THOSE THINGS HAVE NO MORE STRENGTH FOR SUCH A JOB THAN A JELLY FISH WOULD HAVE.


THE DOCTOR'S VERDICT WAS RIGHT. THE MOVING TREES WERE NOT TO BE FEARED. A DETERMINED ATTACK WITH FLAME THROWERS DROVE THE STRANGE FORM OF LIFE AWAY FROM THE "STELLAR" INTO VALLEYS BELOW THE PLATEAU ON WHICH THE SPACER HAD LANDED.

WHILST LANCE AND SOME OF HIS CREW WENT OUT ON AN EXPEDITION OF FURTHER EXPLORATION. . .

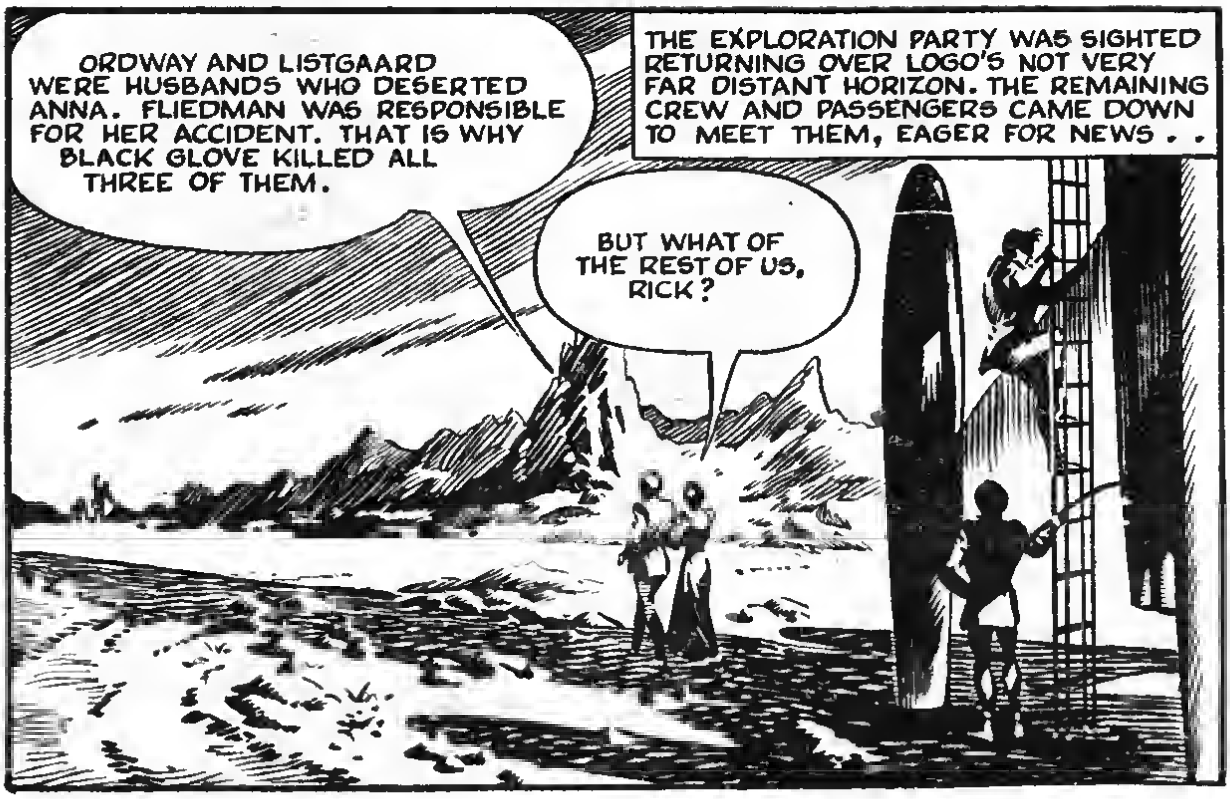
. . RICK SEARCHED LISTGAARD'S BELONGINGS. ISABELLA, NOW SO SCARED THAT SHE WOULD NOT LEAVE HIM, HELPED.
HANG ON, ISABELLA! I THINK I'VE FOUND TWO MORE PIECES OF THE JIGSAW

LOOK AT THIS PHOTOGRAPH. THE MAN IS FLIEDMAN. IS THIS THE GIRL YOU KNEW AS ANNA MARTIN?
ANNA


YES, THIS IS ANNA MARTIN.
AND HERE'S A COPY OF A MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE BETWEEN ANNA ORDWAY AND KURT MARTIN! SO MARTIN WAS ONE OF LISTGAARD'S ALIASES! THEY WERE MARRIED IN MILAN.

OF COURSE! I TOLD YOU I THOUGHT I'D SEEN LISTGAARD BEFORE. NOW I REMEMBER. HE WAS THE MAN WHO CAME TO SEE ANNA IN HOSPITAL. WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

IT MEANS THAT BLACK GLOVE IS A MURDER MANIAC INTENT ON DESTROYING ALL THOSE WHO EVER HARMED ANNA.


ORDWAY AND LISTGAARD WERE HUSBANDS WHO DESERTED ANNA. FLIEDMAN WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR HER ACCIDENT. THAT IS WHY BLACK GLOVE KILLED ALL THREE OF THEM.
THE EXPLORATION PARTY WAS SIGHTED RETURNING OVER LOGO'S NOT VERY FAR DISTANT HORIZON. THE REMAINING CREW AND PASSENGERS CAME DOWN TO MEET THEM, EAGER FOR NEWS . .
BUT WHAT OF THE REST OF US, RICK?

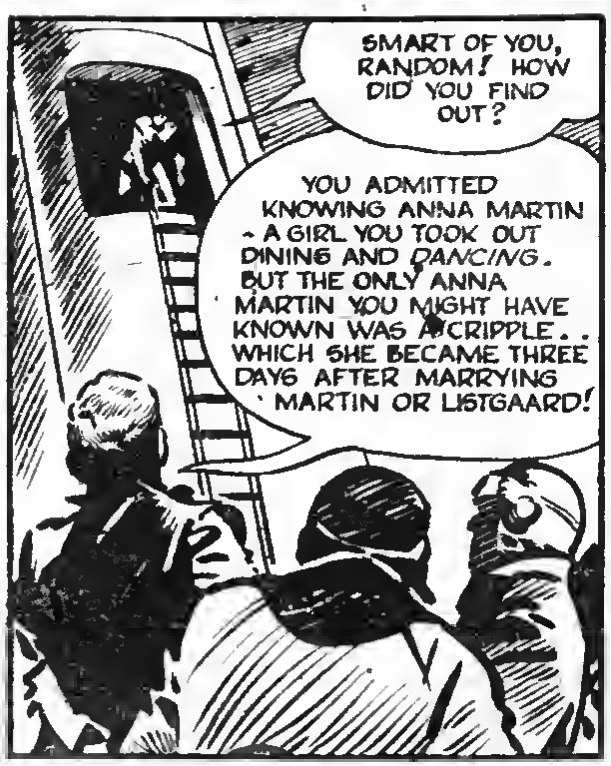
ALL OF YOU HARMED ANNA IN SOME WAY - PERHAPS WITHOUT KNOWING IT, OR HER! ALL EXCEPT BLACK GLOVE. . AND I KNOW NOW WHO BLACK GLOVE MUST BE!

YOU KNOW WHO BLACK GLOVE IS?
YES. THE MURDERER MADE ONE MISTAKE. ANNA'S MARRIAGE TO LISTGAARD MADE ME REALISE THE TRUTH.

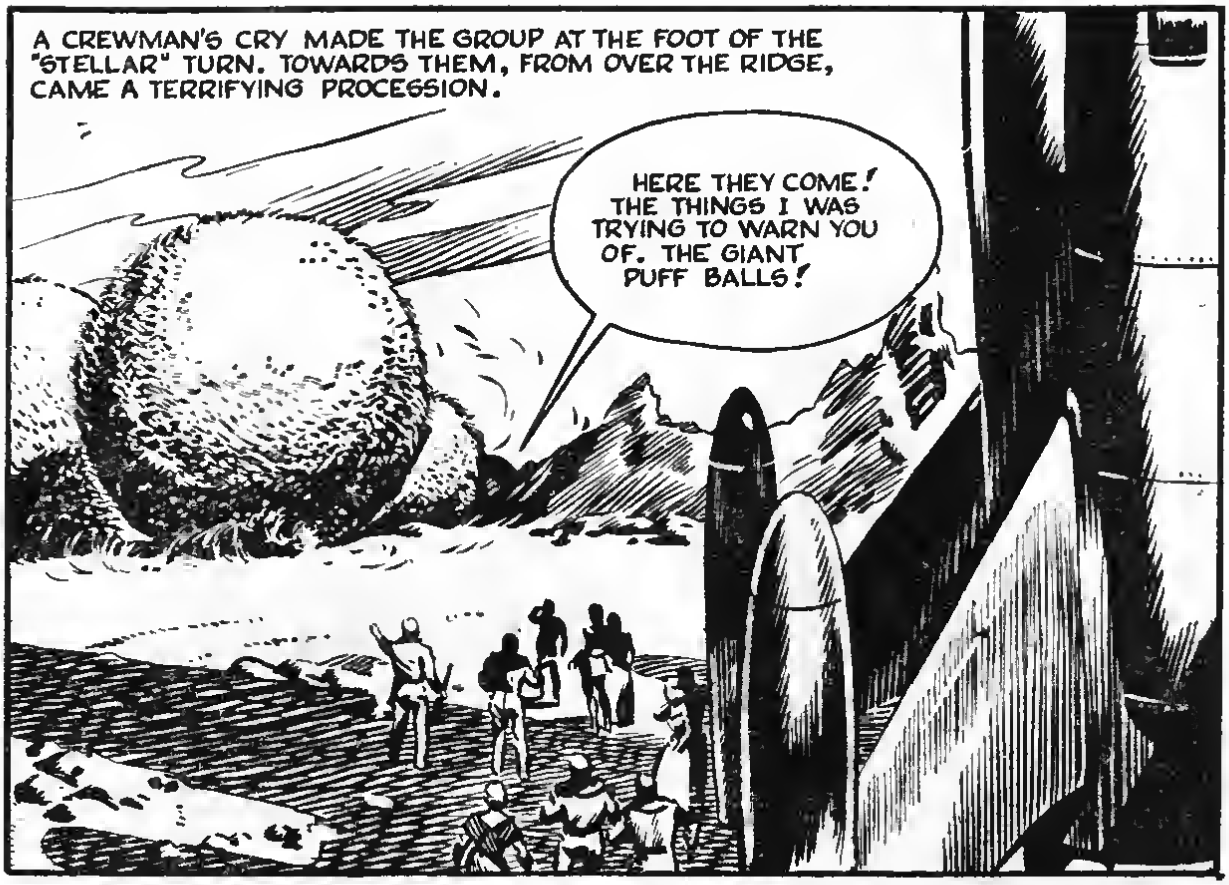
GET BACK INTO THE "STELLAR," ALL OF YOU! THE TREE-THINGS ARE CHILD'S PLAY TO WHAT WE DISTURBED OVER THE RIDGE YONDER!

ONE MAN WAS NEARER TO THE LADDER TO SAFETY THAN ANY OF THE OTHERS. THAT MAN WAS OTTO MAYER!
WELL - WHAT DID YOU DISTURB, CAPTAIN VANE?

EASY, LANCE! HE WON'T HESITATE TO SHOOT FIRST, AND AT ONE OF THE WOMEN, NOW. MAYER IS BLACK GLOVE!
WE'RE ONLY ARMED WITH FLAME GUNS, ANYWAY.


SMART OF YOU, RANDOM! HOW DID YOU FIND OUT?
YOU ADMITTED KNOWING ANNA MARTIN - A GIRL YOU TOOK OUT DINING AND DANCING. BUT THE ONLY ANNA MARTIN YOU MIGHT HAVE KNOWN WAS A CRIPPLE.. WHICH SHE BECAME THREE DAYS AFTER MARRYING MARTIN OR LISTGAARD!

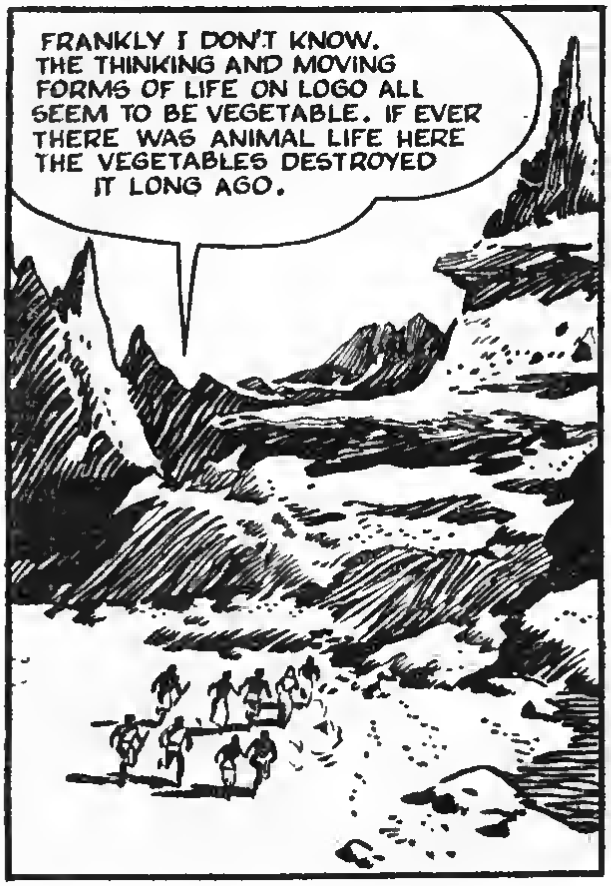
OTTO MAYER DID NOT DENY IT. DRAWING UP THE LADDER HE TOLD THE TRUTH GRIMLY.
ANNA WAS MY DAUGHTER, RANDOM - NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND? I SWORE TO DESTROY ALL WHO HELPED TO DESTROY HER - FROM ORDWAY ON. FRANKS WAS JUST THE AGENT I EMPLOYED.


A CREWMAN'S CRY MADE THE GROUP AT THE FOOT OF THE "STELLAR" TURN. TOWARDS THEM, FROM OVER THE RIDGE, CAME A TERRIFYING PROCESSION.
HERE THEY COME! THE THINGS I WAS TRYING TO WARN YOU OF. THE GIANT PUFF BALLS!

SEALING HIMSELF OFF FROM THE COMMON DANGER, MAYER TAUNTED RICK WITH ONE LAST FACT.
COMING TO LOGO WAS PART OF MY PLAN. FRANKS HAS ORDERS TO SEND A SEARCH PARTY HERE - THEY WILL FIND ME, LONE SURVIVOR OF THE SPACE CASTAWAYS.

THE "STELLAR'S" HATCH CLOSED. .
RUN FOR IT! THEY TRAVEL QUITE SLOWLY!

WE MUST MAKE FOR THE HILLS. THESE THINGS CAN PROBABLY ONLY TRAVEL ON THE FLAT.
AND WHAT THEN, LANCE?


FRANKLY I DON'T KNOW. THE THINKING AND MOVING FORMS OF LIFE ON LOGO ALL SEEM TO BE VEGETABLE. IF EVER THERE WAS ANIMAL LIFE HERE THE VEGETABLES DESTROYED IT LONG AGO.

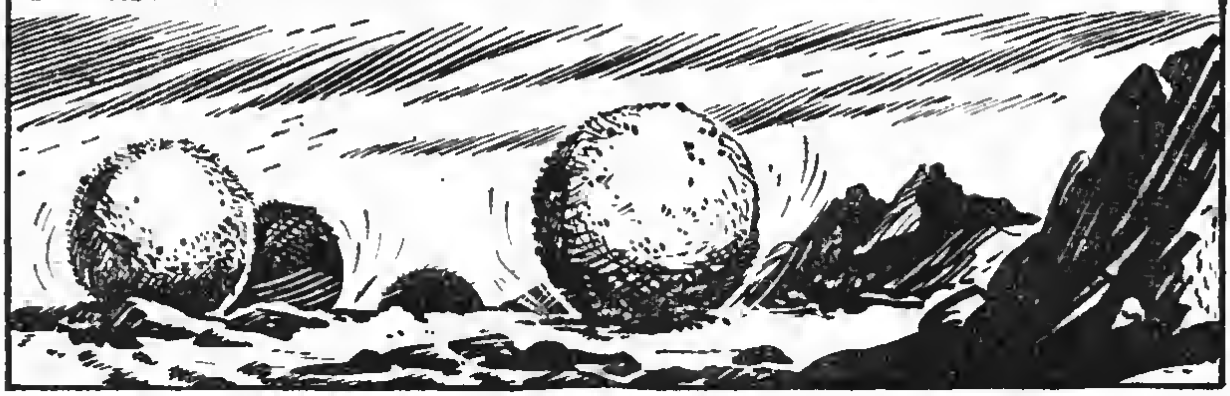
LOOK!

GAZING BACK ACROSS THE PLATEAU, THE FUGITIVES FROM THE GIANT PUFF BALLS SAW THE FIRST OF THE VEGETABLE MONSTERS REACH THE SPACE SHIP. THE GREAT COCOON-LIKE ORB ROLLED ON. FOR A MOMENT LONGER THE NOSE OF THE "STELLAR" WAS SEEN AS IT SWAYED AND TOPPLED. THEN IT VANISHED. THE PUFF BALLS TURNED AND HEADED BACK FOR THE RIDGE.

THE "STELLAR"! THE THING HAS SWALLOWED UP THE "STELLAR," AND IS *TAKING IT AWAY!*

SO MUCH FOR THE MAN WHO MEANT TO BE THE SOLE SURVIVOR ON LOGO!

WHERE THE "STELLAR" HAD STOOD WAS JUST THE GREAT SCAR CAUSED BY HER ARRESTOR BLAST - - THE BLAST THAT HAD SHRIVELLED THE TREE-THINGS ON LANDING. THE VEGETATION OF LOGO HAD TAKEN ITS UNCANNY REVENGE.



THE CASTAWAYS FOUND A CAVE OVERLOOKING THE PLATEAU. HEAT CAME OUT OF THE CAVE FROM SOME INNER SOURCE THEY DID NOT DARE TO EXPLORE.

THIS SEEMS SAFE ENOUGH. WE CAN REST HERE WHILST WE DECIDE ON A PLAN OF ACTION.

DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO FANCY A VEGETARIAN DIET ON LOGO. . . EVEN IF WE MANAGE TO GET ONE.

BUT THEY HAD FIRE. A HARD, DEAD, WOODEN SUBSTANCE ABOUNDED ON THE MOUNTAINSIDE, TO BURN. THEY DISCOVERED A SUCCULENT KIND OF LICHEN, WHICH, WHEN COOKED, HAD A TASTE SIMILAR TO THAT OF MEAT.

RICK RANDOM TIED UP THE LOOSE THREADS OF THE STORY OF ANNA MARTIN.

I REMEMBER HER NOW YOU SHOW ME THE PHOTOGRAPH. BUT IF I DID HER HARM IT WAS UNINTENTIONAL! I NEVER EVEN KNEW HER NAME!

BOTH THE McCLOUDS AND JULIE JASON HAD KNOWN ANNA AND HAD INNOCENTLY BEEN LINKS IN HER TRAGIC STORY.

FOR TWO DAYS THEY STAYED ON THE MOUNTAINSIDE, USING THE CAVE AS THEIR HEADQUARTERS. IT SEEMED AS IF THEY MIGHT BE DOOMED TO LIVE OUT THEIR LIVES ON LOGO IN THIS ONE SAFE PLACE.

LOOK! THE TREE-THINGS ARE COMING BACK!

THAT MAKES US MOUNTAIN DWELLERS - FOR GOOD!

AND THEN, ON THE THIRD DAY, THERE WAS AN UNEXPECTED PANIC AMONGST THE MOVING TREES, WHICH OBVIOUSLY HAD SENSES BEYOND HUMAN CONCEPTION-- AND THE INTELLIGENCE OF MEMORY.

FROM BETWEEN THE DISTANT HILLS ACROSS THE PLATEAU STREAKED A SPACE-SHIP. THE TREES WERE ALREADY DESERTING THE PLATEAU AGAIN.

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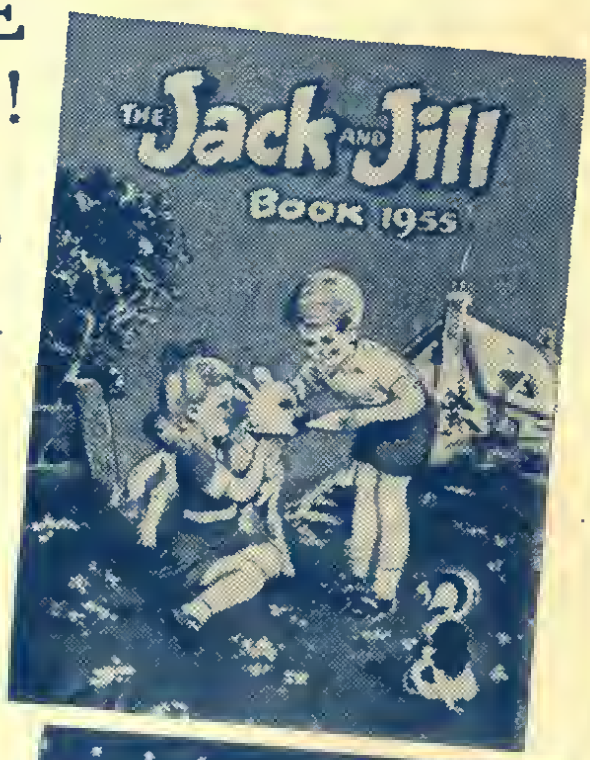

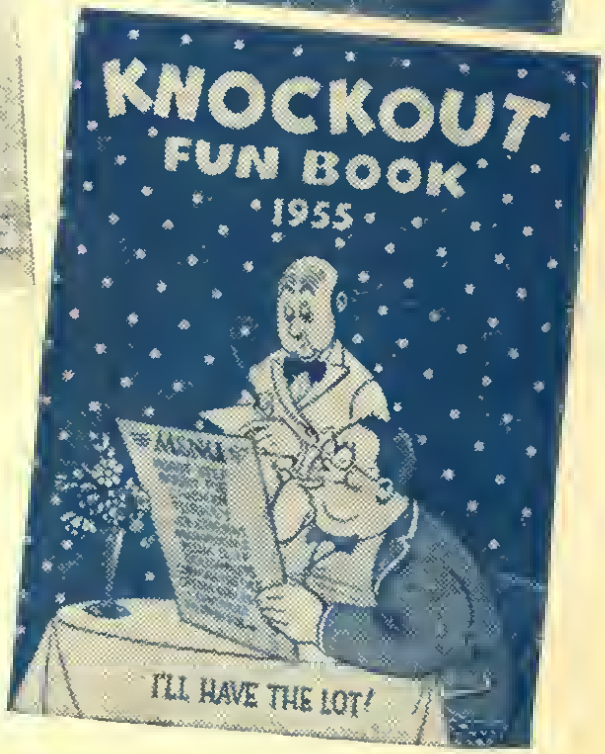

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